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# THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 16 APRIL 1999

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## PETER MANDELSON

ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS  
(SUCH AS: WHEN WILL YOU RETURN TO TONY'S CABINET?)

# 'This is a horror story. There is no other way to describe it'



Yugoslav police at the scene of the tragedy yesterday

ROBERT FISK  
IN TEVZICKI MOST

THIS is a horror story. There are no other words for it. It is the story of a series of massacres along a road lined with torched houses and cherry blossom, of smouldering skeletons and women cut in half, of a man's head lying in a field with the wind blowing his brown hair against the grass, and of corpses lying in a squall hospital nearby.

Nato did all this, say the Serbs, and it is true that US munitions litter the road and fields around here, sometimes within a few inches of corpses, body parts, human bones, smashed tractors and trailers, their pathetic contents of old clothes, pots and family snapshots lying around them.

Clearly there were air strikes here. And Nato appears to be responsible for an atrocity.

But we saw other dark and terrible things on the road between Djakovica and Prizren yesterday afternoon. Busloads of terrified Kosovo Albanians, women and children and old men, peering from behind black curtains as they were driven east row after row of burnt out houses, some of them still burning, a few only recently set on fire.

And several of the dead along the road appeared to have been attacked by machine-gun fire.

The Serbs say that 74 Albanian refugees were massacred on this road on Wednesday afternoon. And I counted 20 corpses - or parts of bodies - in three bombing locations along a 12-mile stretch of highway, and in the mortuary at Prizren, where a half-naked woman and a tiny girl covered in blood lay on the floor party covered in shrouds.

Esmet Sulja, whose sister-in-

law was in the mortuary, told journalists brought here by Serb officials that he came from the Kosovo village of Malite and was told to move "for his own safety" three weeks ago to Dobros.

On Wednesday, he says he was driving his tractor containing 35 people in the trailer from Djakovica to Prizren when planes began dropping bombs around him.

The 46-year-old man, who had lacerations on his face, told us from his hospital bed that five of the passengers had been killed in the trailer.

There were terrible scenes along the road, for the Serbs had left many of the bodies where they were found. A grey-haired old man lay cut in half in a tree, six corpses, including

that of a young woman, lay in brightly coloured clothes in a field where they had been dragged after the air raid. I found a human head 50 metres away and skeletons burnt out in the back of another trailer.

The munitions parked along the road bore several American markings. One bomb part was marked "for use on MKB" and was marked assembly 96214 assy 78-201872, with a date of manufacture of March 1978. A missile circuit board contained the code item 872110.

NATO APOLOGISED yesterday for attacking a column of Albanian refugees in Kosovo on Wednesday, killing at least 60 people, in what may prove the first big test of Western public support for the Balkan air campaign.

The Serbian authorities seized the opportunity of a propaganda windfall, dropped their ban on journalists in Kosovo and rushed foreign reporters to the scene of the carnage to interview wounded survivors under Serb supervision.

And although Nato admitted US pilots based in Italy did not what they thought were military

convoys near the western Kosovo town of Djakovica, questions remain unanswered over who was responsible for the machine-gunned bodies strewn along the Prizren-Djakovica road.

Nato played a tape recording from the debriefing of an F-16 pilot who said he made two passes over a three-vehicle convoy near Djakovica and fired a laser-guided bomb at the lead vehicle on his third pass. The pilot said he saw villages burning below and attacked what he thought were Yugoslav

army vehicles engaged in the ethnic cleansing of the region. The pilot, whose name was not released, said on the tape: "I make a decision at that point that these are the people responsible for burning down the villages that I've seen so far. I go in, put my system on the lead vehicle and execute a laser-

guided bomb attack on that vehicle, destroying the lead vehicle."

The Nato account still did not dovetail with the Serbian video footage showing mangled bodies next to a column of tractors and trailers.

In Washington and London, leaders said they would not be

derailed by the "one tragic accident" from prosecuting an intensified air campaign against the forces of the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said: "We regret these things deeply when they happen but that should not make us flinch from placing responsibility for this conflict squarely on the shoulders of Milosevic, who has begun this conflict."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, added: "How dare they [the Serbs] produce crocodile tears for people killed in the conflict for which they themselves are responsible."

The White House said Nato would continue the air campaign into midsummer if necessary if the Serbs continued to drive the Albanians from Kosovo. The US Defense Secretary William Cohen said the campaign could go on for months and added: "This is not going to be quick or easy or neat."

Nato yesterday attacked army barracks in Belgrade and other cities, Serbian state television transmitters and more bridges. US Apache attack helicopters are arriving in Albania and the aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* has taken up position in the Adriatic.

## Nato apologises for convoy deaths

BY MARCUS TANNER

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Australia AS1.00 Israel .. 105.2.00

Austria AS65.00 Italy .. 15.000

Belgium AS65.00 Luxembourg .. 15.100

Canada C\$3.50 Malta .. MED 55

Cyprus C£1.20 Norway .. 10.00

Czech Republic C£1.20 Portugal .. 15.250

Denmark DKK20.00 Spain .. 55.55

Finland FM15.00 Steppen .. 55.55

France F16.00 Sweden .. Pic 375

Germany DM15.00 Switzerland .. 55.55

Greece Drachma 250 Turkey .. 11.250.000

Hungary Forint 650 USA .. \$5.00

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"This cannot be an error when the refugees were bombed four times"

**Milan Milutinovic,**  
**Serbian President**

"I put my system on the lead vehicle and execute a laser bomb attack... and destroy the lead vehicle"

**US fighter pilot**

## WAR IN THE BALKANS

"Sometimes one has to risk the lives of the few in order to rescue the lives of the many"

**Jamie Shea, of Nato**

"This criminal act demands immediate, unbiased investigation"

**Yugoslavian Foreign Ministry statement**

"How dare they produce crocodile tears for people killed in a conflict for which they are responsible?"

**Robin Cook**

"This is just the kind of 'own goal' we were dreading"

**British official speaking of the convoy bombing**

# Another 30,000 join the exodus

### THE FLIGHT

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY at Blace, Macedonia

LARGE NUMBERS of homeless Kosovars - as many as 30,000 - were moving towards the border with Macedonia yesterday trying to escape the misery of Serbian ethnic cleansers, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Accounts by frightened refugees who have poured over the border in the past 24 hours suggested that many more Albanians are on the move and expected to arrive during the next few days, as the Yugoslav authorities crank up their programme of forced expulsions.

More than 500 people, some of whom said they were roughed up by Serbian police before being handed over to Macedonia at Blace border crossing, were taken on 11 buses to the Stankovic refugee camp which is already packed with 39,000 refugees.

Shooting could be heard yesterday from steep wooded hills just inside the area of Kosovo that overlooks Blace. Fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) are thought to be active in the area against Serb forces.

The latest arrivals were huddled away before reporters could speak to them, but UN re-

lief officials who debriefed them said they had either been evicted from their homes or had fled through fear or lack of food.

"For some there was the knock on the door at 5am today, police, paramilitaries and soldiers told them to get out of their houses and loaded them on buses which took them to the train station at Urosevac," said Rob Redmond, a UN refugee agency spokesman, referring to the southern Kosovo town 30km from the border.

"The train brought them to Blace. En route, they said they passed destroyed or burning villages. They said they were not physically abused in Urosevac, but that when they got off the train some of the men were beaten by Serbian soldiers," Mr Redmond said.

Earlier, another UN refugee agency spokeswoman, Paula Ghedini, said there were indications that about 20,000 or more ethnic Albanians were adrift or hiding around the town of Urosevac and expected to head for Blace in coming days.

A further 300 refugees entered the country near the remote highland town of Jazice, many more were trapped in no man's land awaiting registration.

"We are expecting significant movement in the coming days," said Ms Ghedini. "Some people aren't even asked to leave. They just heard there was an opportunity to cross a border [and left]."

Bracing for the coming wave of refugees, British troops hastily erected 350 tents capable of sheltering 1,750 people at Blace refugee camp which already houses more than 25,000 ethnic Albanians.

The strategy of the Yugoslav authorities remains puzzling, however. A number of refugees at the Blace crossing reported that a train containing as many as a dozen carriages full of

refugees arrived at the border town of Gnjilane Jankovic, only to return north, back into Kosovo, without discharging its passengers.

Rumours of another huge refugee influx have galvanised government and humanitarian agencies in Macedonia, which has barely been able to cope with the 120,000 refugees presently in the country, the majority of them living with

Macedonian families. On Wednesday, 4,000 people came through, and at present capacity no more than 1,300 people can be flown out of Macedonia to the half dozen or so countries which are accepting refugees.

"When the Nato bombs started, we were forced to leave for the villages," said Elifte Rexhepi, who arrived in Blace on Wednesday from

Urosevac. "When we went back all the shops in the neighbourhood had been burned. The people next door were told to leave, so we got out too. Many people were waiting at the station."

"Even if it only keeps up at this rate, we will be facing a huge number," a senior Macedonian official said yesterday. "I am not very optimistic that the situation will get better."

### BRIEFING: DAY 23

■ 5,000 new refugees have arrived in Blace and Stenkovac camps, Macedonia. Plans to build a 350-pent camp as an extension to Blace are under way.

■ 5,000 litres of water, 5,000 ready meals, 3,000 packets of biscuits, 50 pallets of apples, 22 pallets of milk, 50 pallets of oranges, 4,032 tins of corned beef, three pallets of fish, 13,000 loaves of bread have been distributed by British troops.

■ France has put 2,000 troops with 15 Leclerc battle tanks and heavy artillery on alert to join a possible international peace force in Kosovo.

■ Denmark has agreed to Nato's request to double - to eight - its air force F-16 fighter jets.

■ Germany suspended all flights by its unmanned reconnaissance aircraft after the loss of its third £1m drone this week. It still has 18 such drones in the Balkans.

■ Bulgaria will donate 94 tanks and 108 M-30 Howitzers to help Macedonia strengthen its under-equipped army.

■ The road from Kukes to Tirana is deteriorating rapidly, restricting southward transportation of refugees to 2,000 per day. Nato is examining the possibility of repairs.

■ Royal Navy officials say they are readying warships for possible deployment in the Adriatic to shadow Nato vessels taking part in attacks on Yugoslavia.

■ Bari airport in Italy, closed since the Nato offensive began, is due to be reopened today. The airport will only handle one civilian flight every two hours. The move was taken in response to concerns about the tourism industry in Puglia.

■ 35 humanitarian flights landed in Albania.

■ Slovenia said it would provide temporary asylum to 1,800 refugees from Kosovo.

■ A Greek sailor assigned to a Nato mission outraged military brass and upset government officials by refusing to set sail as he opposes the attacks on Yugoslavia.

■ The Yugoslav news agency said earlier that Nato planes had hit communications stations, bridges and a heating plant in overnight raids across Serbia but it gave no details of any casualties.

Pristina has been the target of Nato attacks, especially since Monday.

■ Tanjug quoted from its Pristina reporter.

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## Serb-run bakeries starve the city's Albanians

### PRISTINA

BY KATHERINE BUTLER

A NEW form of apartheid is gripping the Kosovo capital Pristina with Serb-run bakeries reportedly keeping their loaves for Serbs and forcing hungry ethnic Albanians to wait outside for hours.

"Queues for food supplies in from of the state shops are longer and longer," one resident of Pristina said.

City streets were clogged

with military vehicles, with the city's Kicma tunnel sealed off and used as a massive parking lot, he said. Parking places in the town are taken up with police, paramilitary or military vehicles.

"The whole Kicma tunnel in Dardana suburb is full of vehicles, with nearby storerooms also used for vehicles, equipment or soldiers. All entrances to the tunnel are

locked with barricades put up by police and manned by them. Nobody can go through that tunnel."

The premises of state companies including the headquarters of the Ibar Lepenc

hydroelectric plant, had been taken over by Serb forces, he said, but he could not confirm whether they were special police, paramilitary or military units.

All land and mobile telephone communications were

down and he said Nato was still attacking targets around the city yesterday morning.

"Yesterday around Pristina heavy gunfire was heard, mostly in the daytime, especially after midday," he said. He had heard that Serbian forces had

shelled villages in the Komorac Valley, 10 miles west of Pristina.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported a Nato air raid on Pristina shortly before 11am (1000 BST).

"Three strong detonations were heard on the south-east of Pristina, where the air raid alert has been continuously on for more than three days,"

Tanjug quoted from its Pristina reporter.

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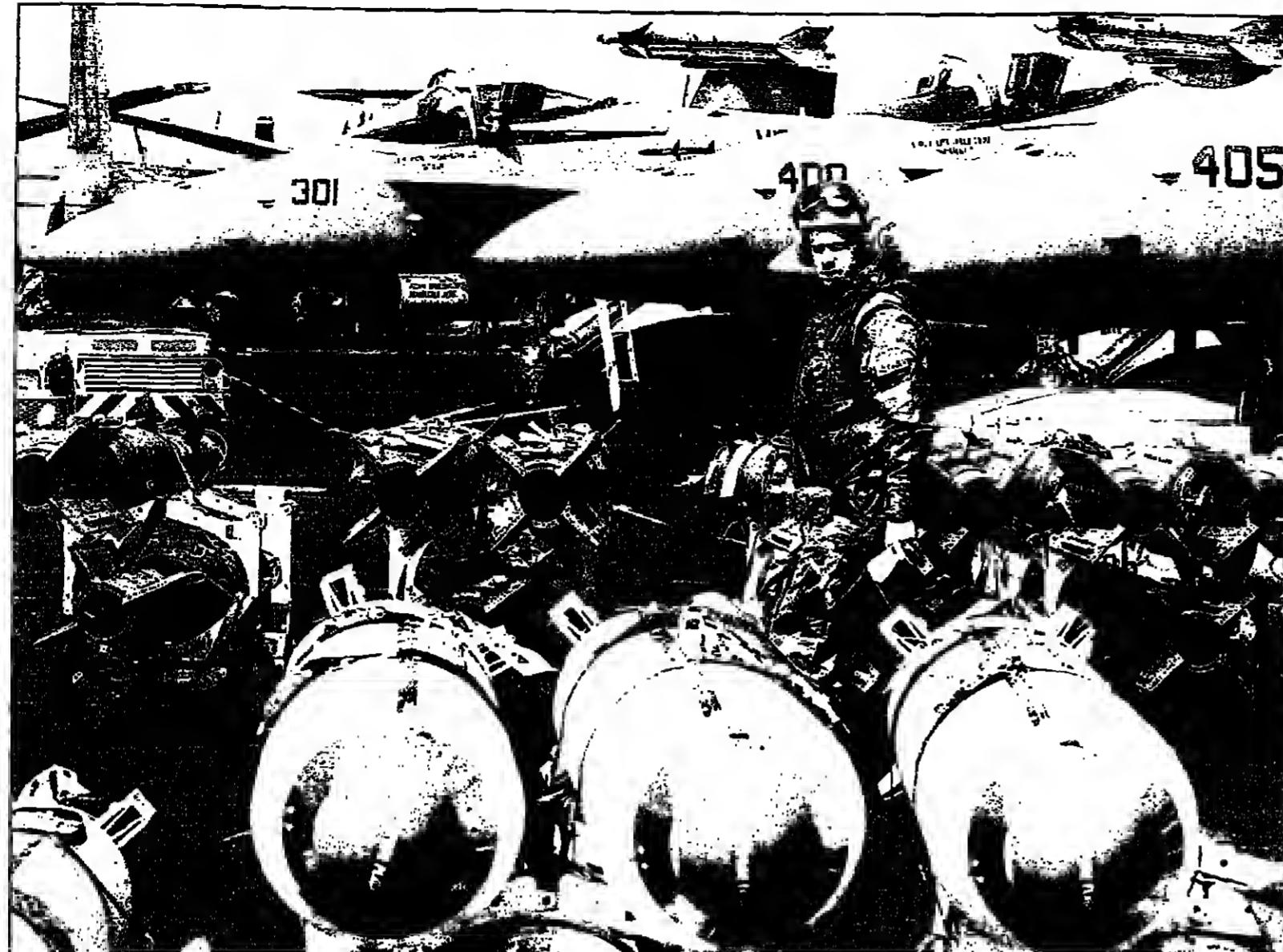
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## WAR IN THE BALKANS

Bombs, missiles and aircraft crowd the flight deck of the carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is operating in the Adriatic. Reuters

## Army of 200,000 needed for all-out ground war

## ALLIED STRATEGY

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

AMERICAN DEFENCE chiefs yesterday gave their most comprehensive account of the Balkans war and of the allied strategy for victory over the forces of Slobodan Milosevic.

Defending the campaign on Capitol Hill, William Cohen, Defence Secretary, appeared with Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr Cohen said even the air operation was "very risky". The reason there had been no planning for "ground troops" was because "in truth, there was no consensus [in Nato] to do anything but this".

He noted that there had been no consensus in Congress either, even for the 4,000 men the US was planning to contribute to a Nato peace-keeping contingent of seven times that number.

Mr Cohen gave a warning that from now on Nato and US casualties were "probable rather than possible".

Any debate on ground troops in Nato, he said, "could have been endless" and resulted in no one taking any action "while exterminations were taking place in Kosovo on an instalment basis".

He said Nato had conducted two "assessments" of its strategy in Kosovo. The first considered a "non-permissive environment", taking control by force of "just Kosovo" or Belgrade and much of Serbia as well. The first, he said, would require a force of 75,000; the second 200,000.

The other scenario presupposed a "permissive environment" and estimated a force of 28,000-30,000 troops for peace-keeping.

General Shelton warned that if ground troops were to be sent, the time from dispatch to deployment would be "long drawn out", and that nothing could be decided without the "support of Congress and the American people", otherwise it would "fracture the alliance".

The current position, he said, was that "the North Atlantic Council has, specifically not to commence planning for ground troops".

In his breakdown of the operation so far, General Shelton said the US had deployed 463 planes in the region, 247 of

them fighters and bombers, 17 reconnaissance and the remainder support aircraft. Other Nato countries had contributed 217 planes, the majority fighters. US naval forces included an aircraft-carrier, two submarines and several minesweepers in the Adriatic.

It would not be easy, he told senators, to complete the operation with air power alone. "It will take a long time, but the military objective as outlined can be accomplished".

There had been three-phase plan 1. to create the conditions to facilitate the operation; 2. to "isolate Serbian forces" and 3. "to dominate or decimate those forces". At each stage the hope was that Mr Milosevic would choose a political settlement.

The first stage entailed the use of mainly long-range missiles and precision bombing to neutralise Yugoslavia's Russian, British and US-supported air defences. In the second stage the range of ground targets had been increased to

include the headquarters of the army and police. Yugoslavia's integrated command and control system, its military supply system, and the road and rail network. The third stage would concentrate on forces in the field. "That is about where we are now."

Cataloguing the damage, General Shelton said 50 per cent of Yugoslavia's frontline fighters had been destroyed with the bulk of surface-to-air missile storage sites, military headquarters buildings and barracks belonging to the police and army. A "considerable amount" of the country's fuel supplies had been destroyed and three-quarters of munitions production had been "damaged or destroyed" in all areas of Serbia.

Mr Cohen said it was wrong to believe the Kosovo Liberation Army had been destroyed; it had lost maybe "several hundred" men, but was fast being replenished as Kosovars were "radicalised" by the Yugoslav assault. One objective, General Shelton noted, was to "degrade" the Yugoslav

forces to where "the balance of power shifts between uniformed members of the Serb forces and the KLA".

On the risk that Russia could become involved, Mr Cohen reassured senators that the US had no evidence that Russia was sending war supplies to Yugoslavia. But he disclosed that Washington had warned Moscow of "serious consequences" if the intelligence-gathering ship it was sending to the Adriatic was used to convey information to the Serbs.

NATO'S PRESENT dilemma is rendered brutally clear in the pictures of dismembered bodies from Wednesday's bombed convoys. The casualties are a direct consequence of the decision to widen the scope and intensity of the air attacks. Yet without this extension of the bombing targets, the Alliance was making no real impact on the Serbian military infrastructure, nor on its brutality over Kosovo.

The damage inflicted from the air to the enemy's operational capability is a necessary prerequisite to any final conflict. But it takes a lot of air power to dent a really powerful military machine. The more intense the bombing becomes, the more inevitable the risk of unintended fatalities. Harsh but true.

After three weeks of engagement, Nato is stuck in the middle of two strategies without clarity about what the end game will look like, or how it intends to get there. There has never been a war when the generals were so hidebound by their government masters. Political reluctance to address the question of how and when ground troops will be committed means that Nato's only explanation for what it is doing – and for what went wrong this week – is incomplete.

Officially, the strategy is simply, in Robin Cook's words, "to continue until the job is finished". But it was always improbable that bombing alone would finish the job. Early optimism that any show of force would stay Milosevic's bloody hand in Kosovo proved wrong. So the raids were stepped up, targets increased in order to cause maximum damage. This makes sense as a preparation for sending in ground troops. It is harder to justify if this goal has not been made clear – and indeed, is still officially denied – and when we are still reduced to having to guess the ultimate intentions of the Alliance by reading between the lines of politicians' speeches.

Air power, for all the advances in technology, cannot tell Serb-commandeered trucks or tractors from those of the Alliance.

At the Brussels summit, Europe showed a united front, not least because EU countries learned from the humiliation of Bosnia that they have nothing to gain by parting company from the Americans at a time of crisis in Europe. But there are differences of nuance which need to be addressed soon. Far from being, as his critics feared, Bill Clinton's poodle,

Tony Blair has the far greater crusader's instinct and desire to move the conflict along to a conclusion. Officially, of course, there is no distinction between the British and US positions. But the view that ground troops are a necessity is acknowledged today more readily in London than in Washington. The longer a decision is postponed, the more potential there is for Nato countries to develop their own ideas of how the conflict should end. Bill Clinton was less than enthusiastic about the German plan to halt air strikes if Serb forces began withdrawing from Kosovo. Nervousness in Europe about the winnability of the war is the greatest risk to Alliance unity.

In all likelihood, ground troops will be the last chapter – or rather the beginning of a whole new book. The remaining question is how they will get there, and under what circumstances. The first option is an all-out offensive, which has hitherto been deemed too risky. The second is if southern Kosovo is abandoned by the Serbs, so that Nato can move in without an offensive against Milosevic. Hence Mr Cook's prediction that there "may be circumstances in which one could envisage an international protection force going in without a formal treaty arrangement, but with no resistance on the ground". The third option is to allow the Russians a greater role. Moscow and Nato would move into Kosovo together; the Russians guaranteeing Serb security in return for participation – the option Mr Blair appeared to dismiss.

It falls to America to decide how this will end. Up to now, President Clinton's dominant consideration has been not to risk US casualties. But there is another imperative for a White House incumbent anxious to salvage the reputation of his presidency and bequeath the Democrats a victory; namely to ensure he is not seen to have led America into humiliation. Unless Nato sets out what it means by victory and how it intends to achieve it, it may well be seen to have lost the war that does not speak its name.

## ANALYSIS

## Nato caught between conflicting strategies

ANNE  
MCELVOY

occupied by Kosovar refugees. As the pressure intensifies on the Serbian forces and their petrol supplies run out, they will commander more civilian vehicles. From the Serb point of view, there is every reason to expose fleeing refugees to Nato attack.

As both George Robertson and Robin Cook showed when they spoke with palpable strain of Wednesday's incident, just two days after civilian deaths on the bombed train, the simple mantra that the air attacks must continue because that is what we started, sounds less convincing when Nato has killed the very civilians it went to save. We are uncomfortably reminded of the Catch-22 logic of the American spokesman in Vietnam who announced: "We could only save the village by destroying it." Public faith in Nato could decline sharply if its actions are seen to produce diminishing returns or to lack the clarity of a crusade. The Alliance never looked so vulnerable as in its first ill-considered attempt to spin the early news of the disaster. The public in America and Europe knows that Serbia's heavy-handed propaganda is mendacious; it requires a higher standard of honesty from the Alliance.

At the Brussels summit, Europe showed a united front, not least because EU countries learned from the humiliation of Bosnia that they have nothing to gain by parting company from the Americans at a time of crisis in Europe. But there are differences of nuance which need to be addressed soon. Far from being, as his critics feared, Bill Clinton's poodle,

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## THE BALKAN QUESTION

KEY ISSUES BEHIND THE WAR EXPLAINED

Nato's bomb hit a farm "compound". But why were the refugees in a walled compound to start with?

Kosovar Albanians have always lived in farms with high walls and wooden gates, sealed off from the world.

When you travelled across Kosovo you could often tell the nationality of the owner by whether the house was open or shut off. One reason for

these huge medieval-looking stockades is that rural Albanians live in extended families, so they need a lot of space.

Another is Muslim conservatism; rural Kosovars do not like their wives and daughters to be seen by outsiders.

For Kosovo Albanians, the outside world in the form of the Serbian authorities has always been a hostile force, so the Kosovars feel safer behind their high walls.

Have Albanians always lived in Kosovo? Serbs and Albanians argue over which community first settled Kosovo, but there is no doubt that it was mainly Serb in the Middle Ages, when their princes built many monasteries there. The Albanians became the majority under the Ottomans, which lasted until 1912 when Serbia retook the province in the first Balkan

war. From then until the 1930s the Serbs tried to resettle the province, but the experiment collapsed in the Second World War and Tito forced the previous colonists to return.

Although some Albanians settled in Kosovo from Albania proper after the war, the real reason for the steep rise in the Albanian population was their birthrate, which is the highest in Europe.

MARCUS TANNER

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Serb "ethnic cleansing" of the province. Many are in camps in Macedonia, others have fled to Albania and thousands of others have been flown to countries in the West.

More than 500,000 Kosovar Albanians have fled or been forced from their homes by

## TIMETABLE: DAY 23

Thursday 15th April

- 12.00-3.00am: Shelling around the border point of Morina, the main route out of Kosovo for 300,000 refugees in recent weeks.
- 1.30am: Five explosions heard in central Belgrade.
- 1.35am: Nato missiles reported to have landed in Samaila, west of Kraljevo.
- 3.30am: Tanjug reports seven explosions in and around Nis and says a bridge in Jasika was destroyed.
- 5.45pm: OSCE announces five members of KLA were killed and eight wounded in fighting along the border of Yugoslavia and Albania.
- 9.00-11.00am: Machine gun and artillery fire continues along the Yugoslav and Albanian border.

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## Lesson in smugness from Mr Brown's little treasures

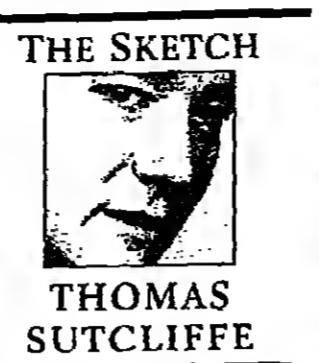
THE COMPETITION is pretty stiff but I think the Treasury frontbench team may be the smuggest, most self-satisfied ministerial grouping in the current Government. I should note before I proceed that there are people here with less right to hold the trophy than others. Barbara Roche, for instance, does not always pull her weight when it comes to clichés and condescension. And, paradoxically, the team captain sometimes lets the side down a bit too. This is not because Gordon Brown can't curl a lip with the best of them, but because there is still some quality of untaught authenticity to his arrogance. As he

sneers back at the opposition or flings some dog-eared riposte there is a human flair to his performance which is missing from Alan Milburn's work on the wing. You feel that Mr Milburn works for every point he scores, an admirable dedication to the craft which should not go unrecorded.

My grounds for exempting Ms Roche, incidentally, can't fairly be described as anything other than prejudice. For one thing I have noticed that I don't grind my teeth when she stands at the despatch box; for another I saw her recently on Muswell Hill High Street being nice to the children she was with. She may find

it unfair to be singled out like this but I can't dodge the facts; for her, at least, I have first-hand evidence of humanity. I realise it's possible that the supremely irritating mannerisms of her two female colleagues in the Treasury might also conceal an off-the-pitch normality. But, if so, all I can say is that they conceal it with an admirable professionalism.

When I watch Dawn Primarolo at the despatch box I can't quite shake a vision of her dressed in a puce courier's uniform and surrounded by disgruntled charter passengers demanding to know when their refreshment vouchers will arrive. She clutches at her clipboard with white



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

knuckles, voice hovering between synthetic mollification and panic, her stresses becoming ever more stressed as the temperature rises.

Patricia Hewitt, on the other hand, adopts a different role, that of a veteran nursery school teacher – a woman who thinks of herself as having a special way with the little ones. The ghastly singsong in which she delivers New Labour's bedtime story is accompanied at all times by a fixed smile, an acknowledgement that you need lots of patience if you're going to work with toddlers.

Sometimes it is necessary to be stern, of course. When one Tory MP asked an impertinent question about "dirty foreign trucks" she promptly smacked his knuckles for xenophobia. This was a tiny bit unfair since he was talking about air pol-

lution and the trucks he had in mind were undeniably both foreign and dirty. But discipline must be maintained and virtue encouraged. Fortunately he was followed by a good boy, Ben Bradshaw, who earned several gold stars for coming to school on a bicycle and restored Ms Hewitt's sunny mood. It's pupils like little Ben who make the whole job worthwhile. Or like Paul Goggins, who later invoked a genuine schoolboy in a syrupy question about what representations the Chancellor had received from children with regard to debt relief. He himself had received a postcard from seven-year-old Joshua Dean

saying "Please help cancel the debt". The Chancellor briefly played *Jim'll Fix It*, promising to sell off part of the IMF's gold mountain to fund little Joshua's dream, at which point, nervous that a moppet-guy might be opening up between the parties, Nick St Aubyn stood up to make the implausible assertion that "there are lots of children round the country who support the last Conservative government's efforts to reduce debt". We were spared the views of primary school children on the new fiscal regime for British shipping or the withholding tax, but if this sort of thing carries on Ms Hewitt's peculiar skills may come in useful.



The Tory party leader, William Hague, listening to the concerns of road hauliers in Aberdeenshire yesterday PA

## Hague backs plan to elect 'senators'

WILLIAM HAGUE is to outflank Tony Blair over reform of the House of Lords by endorsing radical plans, published today, for a "senate" with many of its members elected by the public.

A commission that was set up by the Conservative leader has proposed two options for a new second chamber, which would both involve some "senators" being directly elected for a 15-year term of office.

Today's report will increase the pressure on the Government to beef up its plans for

### LORDS REFORM

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

Peers reform. Although some peers could be nominated by the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies under Mr Blair's plans, he opposes the direct election of peers on the grounds that it would undermine the House of Commons.

Mr Hague will finalise the Opposition's blueprint shortly after studying the findings of the constitutional commission, that was chaired by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the former lord chancellor.

Close allies suggested that Mr Hague was ready to endorse the commission's approach by calling for a partly-elected second chamber. But he may stop short of demanding a wholly elected House of Lords, which would be opposed by many Conservative MPs.

This report strongly steers Conservatives towards solutions which listen to public concern that the second chamber should be independent and chosen fairly," Mr Hague said last night.

Lord Mackay rejected the

Government's plans to curb the existing powers of the Lords but agreed with ministers that the Commons should retain its primacy.

He said the new-look second chamber should broadly retain its existing powers, but that they might need strengthening in future. Under Lord Mackay's plans, a "Senator of Parliament" (or SP) would enjoy similar pay and allowances to an MP. Although the SPs would have to stand down after serving 15 years, they could become MPs at that point, and Lord Mackay suggested that being a senator could be a stepping stone for aspiring MPs.

Under the most radical of his two options, 490 senators would be elected by 80 constituencies each with six members, who would be elected in pairs at three successive general elections. Another 15 members could be appointed by the Prime Minister during each five-year Parliament, to serve as ministers.

Under option two, a partly-elected chamber would include 150 senators chosen by an appointments commission; 99 representing the Scottish,

Welsh and Northern Irish assemblies and English regions; another 99 elected in groups of 33 at each general election to proportion to the total votes cast and 100 appointed for life.

The Conservative commission proposed that the law lords should retain their seats but said that the 26 Church of England bishops who currently sit in the Upper House should lose that automatic right, although the appointments commission could consider sending them to the Lords.

Lord Mackay said yesterday that his proposals would strengthen the second chamber's advisory role, increase its legitimacy and bolster Parliament's standing – without threatening the Commons.

"We have looked to create models that bring in members with special expertise or experience and ensure that no one party is able to have an in-built majority," he said. "We have tried to ensure that its membership does not directly mimic the representation of the Commons of the day and that members are able to feel a greater level of independence from party machines."

## Tory attacked over Belize shipping links

### SAFETY AT SEA

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Westminster Correspondent

Lord Razzall said Belize had one of the worst safety records of any "flag of convenience," and asked Lord Whitty to press Mr Ashcroft to improve it.

Despite being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which demands links between ships and their countries of registration, the Belize register has many ships which have little or no connection to the Central American state.

Lord Razzall said if ships were genuinely linked to the countries where they were registered, safety standards would be better and accidents such as the sinking of the *Rema* would happen less often.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, the Conservative transport spokesman, said it was wrong to draw any conclusion about the accident before an investigators' report was published.

"There is a very tenuous link between Mr Michael Ashcroft and his holding in the Belize register and the fact that this ship tragically sank," he said.

### THE HOUSE



### Death warning

LABOUR BACKBENCHERS called for a statement on the deaths of refugees in allied bombings. Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, warned: "This will inevitably happen again and again."

### Asylum on 50p

Labour backbenchers criticised the Government's Asylum and Immigration Bill because it would leave asylum seekers with as little as 50p-a-day to spend on each of their children. Present benefits will be replaced with hostel accommodation, food vouchers.

### Today's agenda

Commons – 9.30am Football (Offences and Disorder) Bill; Licensing (Young Persons) Bill. Debate on cervical cancer screening procedures. Lords – not sitting

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Pinochet cost

LORD LAMONT of Lerwick, the former Conservative Chancellor, has tabled 70 questions concerning the case of General Pinochet since last December, which has cost the taxpayer £8,050. Home Office Minister Lord Williams of Mostyn, disclosed.

#### Allergy move

MINISTERS ARE drawing up measures to give an even greater emphasis to the National Health Service's treatment of allergy by recognising it as a specialty in its own right. Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, said.

## English Nature calls for GM ban

### ENVIRONMENT

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

Baroness Young told the Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee that a ban until 2003 would allow more research on results of field trials.

She said the trials should be "rigorous" enough to take into account broader ecological and environmental implications of commercial releases.

English Nature caused Tony Blair intense embarrassment earlier this year when it opposed the Government's refusal to impose a moratorium on GM releases.

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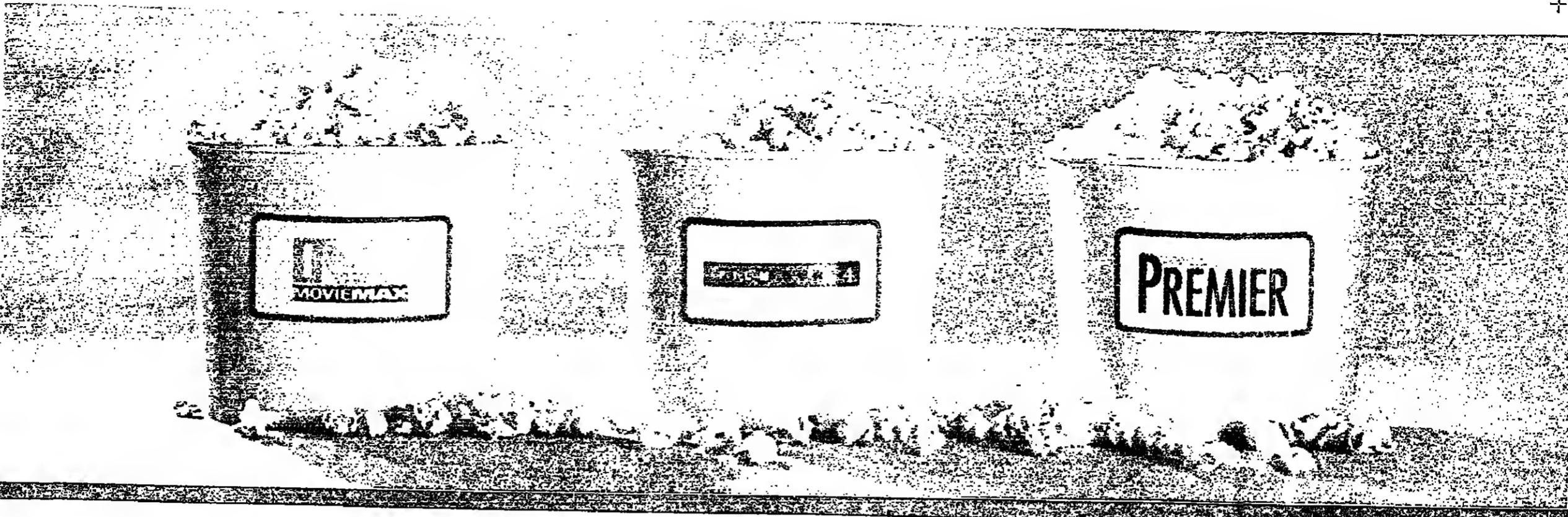
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# Liverpool stops at 3.06pm, and looks back in sad anger on the day 96 died

AT SOME time in the early morning the big white clock at the Kop end of Anfield stadium had been stopped to show a time of six minutes past three.

And when that exact minute came in real time yesterday the tall, spindly figure of Ray Lewis, dressed in his referee's strip, walked out to the penalty spot and blew his whistle once – bringing an entire city to a standstill. It could have been seen as almost comical. A bare-legged, elderly man blowing a tin whistle, watched in complete silence by 10,000 people. On the contrary it was deeply moving. Because everybody in Anfield knew that exactly 10 years ago, to the second, the same man had blown the same whistle 65 miles away, at Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield, in a vain attempt to abandon a football match and save the lives of people being slowly crushed to death. His whistle came too late that day. Ninety-six people, most of them under 20 years old, were either dead or dying.

Yesterday's symbolic re-enactment was the signal for the entire population of Liverpool to stop in their tracks. And they did. Buses, taxis, lorries and cars stopped where they stood. And for sixty seconds the only sound was the tolling of the cathedral bell.

All morning, in freezing rain, thousands had walked up the hill to Anfield and the young fans in their red and white scarves made the Kop, as always, a sea of colour. Only the great roaring of the fans was absent. Long silences punctuated the prayers and the singing of a gospel choir. The words were conciliatory and respectful. Above everything else on this mournful day, we were witnessing a city honouring those who had died so obscenely, so needlessly. But underneath it all there was still, after all these years, more than a hint of a powerful rage that justice has still not been done. That there are still scores to be settled.

And after an hour of hearing the comforting words and music of "Abide With Me" and "Amazing Grace", and listening to the words of the great and good of Liverpool hoping for



JAMES DALRYMPLE

eventual release and peace for the victim's families, so we finally got to the hard, unrelenting message that is still being delivered by a community that cannot rest until somebody, somewhere pays the price of the incompetence that cost so many lives.

Trevor Hicks, who watched his two daughters, 19-year-old Sarah, and Vicki, 15, die on the Hillsborough turf, gave the keynote speech yesterday. He began quietly. A long list of thanks to dozens of people. He even made a few jokes, pointing out that the stopping of the big clock meant that he could talk as long as he liked and it would still be the same time. But in the end his anger flooded out. And there was no doubt that 10,000 ordinary Liverpudlians agreed with him.

"Some people," he said, "many in positions of authority, politely say that we should let the tenth anniversary be the end of it. Others are more forthright and come out and say they are sick of Hillsborough. The very bold say they are sick of us going on about it. I know I speak for many of the families when I say we agree. We are sick of it too."

"We want to get on with our lives, wrecked as they are. We look forward to some peace and quiet. The achievement of that aim could be hastened if all the obstacles were removed and all the information made available, if the ducking and diving stops – and the people responsible stand up and be counted. Nothing would please us more than an early opportunity to test our case in a court of law."

And that was crux of it. After the hundreds of days of inquiries, coroners' inquests,



"Today is about remembering. We know we cannot get them back and we try to come to terms, we try to understand. We seek answers, the truth, justice" Howard Barlow

books, films and television documentaries, Trevor Hicks and the Hillsborough families – and the entire city of Liverpool – are still unsatisfied. They want to see police officers in the dock, charged with neglect and incompetence. To that end, their move to bring a private prosecution is still grinding its way through the legal process.

His anger, brief and flaring, brought an even deeper silence over the stadium. And then, in a moment, it was gone. "But that is all for another day," he said quietly.

"Today is about remembering the 96, and how we wish things were different. We know we cannot get them back and

we try to come to terms, we try to understand. We seek answers, explanations, the truth, justice." With that he smiled suddenly. And the father who lost his sons on a spring afternoon in Sheffield asked the crowd to get on their feet and sing the song – for more than 30 years the anthem of Liverpool itself – that he says he now loves more than any other.

A mile down the road from Anfield, in a city almost deserted because everybody who could make it was in the stadium, they could hear the crowd rear out the words of "You'll Never Walk Alone".

The last time I stood in Anfield was on the day following Hillsborough. Returning yesterday and watching this city once again offering its grief and strength to the world, I thought of that terrible five year period in the late Eighties when the world seemed to produce one disaster after another.

Working for this newspaper during those years I had seen the flames that devoured the Piper Alpha rig, and the hundreds of bodies lying scattered on a golf course and hanging from the rooftops. All of these catastrophes were caused either by the insane actions of men or a random act of fate, involving usually a measure of neglect or incompetence. And those who had perished were just going about their business, travelling home, walking the streets of their town.

But Hillsborough was different from the rest. The 96 people who had the life crushed out of them that day were a complete and close community, a faithful army of Saturday afternoon pilgrims, who died because they loved something.

They were the lifeblood, financially and physically, of an industry that was still, in 1989, greedy, corrupt, smug and incompetent. It could even be murderous.

We had seen death on a massive scale in death-trap stadiums from Ibrox to Heysel and Bradford with hundreds crushed and hurt to death. And at Hillsborough Stadium we saw the final flowering of their contempt as they forced the supporters into cages and squeezed them to death. Yes-

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## Mandelson talks!



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## New Ulster crisis talks called at Number Ten

TONY BLAIR and Bertie Ahern will call Gerry Adams, David Trimble and other key party leaders to crisis talks at Downing Street in an attempt to break the deadlock over the Northern Ireland peace process.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach, who failed to end the impasse over arms decommissioning, agreed to hold the fresh talks after their second meeting in 24 hours last night at No 10.

There was also a hint that the governments are prepared to alter the wording of the Hillsborough Declaration when they meet party leaders on Monday. Mo Mowlam, Secre-

etary of State for Northern Ireland, will hold more talks with other party leaders in Belfast.

Conceding that there were "difficulties" in reaching agreement, the Prime Minister's spokesman said the declaration was a draft document, in a clear signal that it could be changed. He remained confident the obstacles could be overcome, providing the momentum was maintained in the peace process.

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### IN BRIEF

#### Anthony Newley dies of cancer

THE ACTOR, singer and playwright Anthony Newley has died after a long battle with cancer. The 67-year-old former husband of Joan Collins died on Wednesday at his home in Florida. He came to fame playing the Artful Dodger in the 1948 film version of *Oliver Twist*.

Obituary, Review page 6

#### People's prayer for the millennium

MORE THAN two-thirds of people planning to watch the new year celebrations at the Millennium Dome on television believe there should be a distinctly Christian component to the proceedings, according to a poll by NOP. They wanted a "Christian moment of reflection".

#### Boy, 13, blinded girl with airgun

A BOY of 13 was yesterday convicted of blinding a newspaper delivery girl, 15, in one eye by firing an air pistol at her. The boy was found guilty at Exeter Crown Court of causing grievous bodily harm in the attack at Paignton, Devon, in May. Sentencing was deferred.

#### Ambulance drops job claim

AN AMBULANCE officer who was sacked over his handling of a case involving two paramedics accused of ignoring a call to a dying man has withdrawn an industrial tribunal claim that he should be given his job back. David Carrington and London Ambulance Service came to an agreement.

#### 'Freelance' vicar arrested

THE REV JONATHAN BLAKE, who calls himself "Britain's first freelance vicar", was arrested for mailing his "95 theses" on the "corrupt and corrupting" church, to the door of Canterbury Cathedral. His C of E licence was withdrawn in 1993 and he works from home in Gillingham, Kent.

day Agreement had been "seriously eroded" and warned the two governments against "parking" the peace process over the summer months.

David Trimble, the First Minister of Northern Ireland, said that would not happen. However, he said it was now up to Republican leaders to confront the hardliners within their own ranks who, he said, were barring any moves towards decommissioning.

"It is time that the leaders of the republican movement stood up to the handful of paramilitaries in their ranks that are obstructing progress," he said. "It is time they faced down the opposition in their own ranks."

## Hand transplant possible in UK

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

New York his hand appeared swollen and he said it was deteriorating. A CBS producer, Joe Goldfarb, described it as "almost completely dead".

Today, however, the surgical team that carried out the transplant say in *The Lancet* that Mr Hallam and his new hand are doing well. Although patients who have lost hands in accidents have had them reattached, the transplant of a hand from a donor had not previously been attempted – except once, unsuccessfully, in Ecuador in 1984 – because of fears of rejection.

Professor Jean-Michel Dubernard, of the Edouard Herriot Hospital, Lyons, and colleagues attribute their success to the development of new immunosuppressant drugs.

Mr Hakim said: "I am putting together a protocol to do [the operation] in London. The only question is when."

Second system discovered

World's last bacteria f off Namib

Philip Hinshe

The Lords are irresponsible they are demo



# Second solar system is discovered

ASTRONOMERS HAVE discovered a second solar system around a distant star, raising the prospect of one day finding an inhabited Earth-like planet.

Astronomers in America yesterday announced the strongest evidence to date that our own nine-planet solar system is not alone.

They are due to publish results of two independent studies showing that there are at least three planets orbiting the star Upsilon Andromedae.

The star is 44 light years from Earth and was already known to have one planet, discovered in 1996.

The discovery of two further planets is the culmination of 11 years of telescope surveys designed to look for a star's "wobble", caused by the gravitational pull of orbiting planets.

It is the first hard evidence that the universe could be teeming with planets and solar systems, given that the first planet was found after a survey of just 107 stars - a minute fraction of the 200 billion stars in our own galaxy, the Milky Way.

The discovery of the first solar system beyond the Sun was made independently by scientists at San Francisco State University, Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the High Altitude Observatory in Boulder, Colorado. The work is due to be published in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

Debra Fischer, an astronomer at San Francisco State University, said that the discovery of three planets orbiting a single star opened up possibilities for further finds.

"It implies that planets can form more easily than we ever imagined, and that our Milky

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

Way is teeming with planetary

vain Korzennik, a member of the Harvard-Smithsonian team. Dr Fischer agreed: "Having two completely independent sets of observations gives us confidence in this detection."

After finding the initial "wobble" that led to the discovery of the first planet, the scientists found other movements of the star, which could only be explained by the presence of a second and third planet.

"We looked at the two-planet solution [but] there was still too much extra noise. We concluded that the extra wobble could only be explained by the presence of a third planet," said Dr Fischer.

The innermost planet of Upsilon Andromedae is at least three-quarters of the mass of Jupiter and orbits at a distance of less than a tenth of that between Earth and the Sun, making its "year" just 4.6 days long.

The middle planet is at least twice the size of Jupiter and takes 242 days to orbit the star; the outermost planet - a massive world - is at least four times bigger than Jupiter and takes between 3.5 and 4 years to complete its stellar orbit.

Because instruments used in the research were not sensitive enough to detect small bodies, scientists have not ruled out the possibility that the newly discovered solar system also contains Earth-sized planets.

Discovering three Jupiter-sized planets around one star has puzzled scientists, who say that the phenomenon is not easy to explain by current theories of planet formation.

"This will shake up the theory of planet formation. A question was whether the massive bodies orbiting stars really were planets, but now that we see three around the same star, it is hard to imagine anything else," said Robert Noyes, professor of astronomy at the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre.

The scientists are convinced that their observations reflect a genuine discovery because they have been made independently by two groups, said Sy-

## World's largest bacteria found off Namibia

THE BIGGEST bacteria ever known have been discovered off the African coast. They consist of cells up to 0.75mm in diameter - equivalent to seven pages of a book seen edge-on.

The find was made by German, Spanish and US researchers sampling sediment off Namibia. *Thiomargarita namibiensis*, which means "sulphur pearl of Namibia", is 100 times larger than the previous record for bacterial size. "When I told them my col-

leagues didn't believe me," said Heide Schulz, of the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, who discovered the organisms.

If the largest *Thiomargarita* were a blue whale, an ordinary bacterium such as *E. coli* would be slightly smaller than a newborn mouse. The previous largest known bacterium, which lives in the gut of surgeon-fish, would on this scale be as big as a lion.

Some 98 per cent of the cells consist of a liquid container or vacuole, for storing solutions that allow the bacterium to "hold its breath" for up to three

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

months while it waits for the correct conditions to arise, according to the report in the journal *Science*. The cells live in sediment, which is rich in hydrogen sulphide, the "rotten-egg" gas. They can store both that gas and nitrates - oxides of nitrogen - from seawater.

The latter are stored in the vacuole. The cell generates energy from a reaction between the sulphide and the nitrates. But because nitrate-rich seawater rarely reaches the sediment, the cells have to be able to store the chemicals as they wait for storms to stir up the sediment and provide new "food". The importance of the role of *T. namibiensis* lies in that ability to oxidise hydrogen sulphide, which is produced in enormous quantities by other bacteria. Potentially, it can poison all sorts of life: hundreds of people died in an African town on the shores of a lake when a cloud of hydrogen sulphide was released from sediment on the lake's bottom.

But because it can transform the gas into less poisonous forms, *T. namibiensis* plays an important role for aquatic and possibly even land life. "It couples the sulphur and nitrogen cycles, perhaps to a degree not previously given enough credence," said Mr Schulz.

Cycling of nitrogen from a gas to nitrates and back again, and of sulphur from sulphides to sulphates is a key to development of life on Earth. Micro-organisms play a key role by making chemical by-products available from all those processes which can then be used by all other organisms.

*Thiomargarita*, the biggest bacterium yet discovered

leagues didn't believe me," said Heide Schulz, of the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, who discovered the organisms.

If the largest *Thiomargarita* were a blue whale, an ordinary bacterium such as *E. coli* would be slightly smaller than a newborn mouse. The previous largest known bacterium, which lives in the gut of surgeon-fish, would on this scale be as big as a lion.

Some 98 per cent of the cells consist of a liquid container or vacuole, for storing solutions that allow the bacterium to "hold its breath" for up to three

PHILIP HENSHER

**The Lords are behaving irresponsibly because they are demob happy**

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW PAGE 4



The fragment of lunar meteorite Dar al Gani 262 sold at Christie's in London yesterday

## HOME NEWS/11

Chip off the moon fetches £9,200

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

A TINY fragment of the Moon, 1.75 centimetres long and weighing just 0.71 grams, was sold at auction for £9,200 yesterday.

It comes from the meteorite Dar al Gani 262 - one of only 18 pieces of the Moon discovered on Earth - which was found in the Sahara desert in Libya two years ago. At 513g, Dar al Gani 262 was one of the largest lunar meteorites ever discovered. It was divided into three parts for examination and yesterday one of these was sold at Christie's in London, to a private collector.

Tom Newth, of Christie's, said: "For some reason, which we don't fully understand, most meteorites land in the Antarctic - it might be something to do with the magnetic pull - which means that we don't find them very often."

Documentation of scientists' studies of the rock was offered for sale with the fragment.

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# Met poised to pay £100,000 to Lawrences

SCOTLAND YARD is preparing to make an unprecedented *ex gratia* payment, believed to amount to £100,000, to the parents of black student Stephen Lawrence to compensate them for its bungled investigation of his murder.

The Yard confirmed yesterday that discussions were taking place with lawyers for the Lawrence family, but refused to comment on the size of the payment.

Neville and Doreen Lawrence announced their intention to sue the police after the publication of Sir William Macpherson's damning report on the murder investigation in February.

Glen Smyth, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, told BBC Radio yesterday that he thought the Lawrences might be given separate payments.

"I was aware that the Metropolitan Police were talking about a sum in the region of £50,000 but I don't know if that was for each of them or together," he said.

Ros Howells, a friend of the Lawrence family, said that £100,000 was little compared to what they had lost. "I am hoping the lawyers will be able to negotiate a more sensible sum," she said.

BY KATHY MARKS AND IAN BURRELL

She added that the family had been forced to move house and sell their home for a low price. "One could never begin to calculate the emotional stuff," she said. "You could never compensate anyone for the loss of a son."

News of the negotiations emerged as Gary Dobson, one of the five men suspected of murdering Stephen, took part in a radio phone-in.

Stung by the cynicism that greeted the gang's media debut last week, Dobson submitted himself to live questioning for two hours on Talk Radio yesterday morning.

"Gary Dobson is a follower and he will follow the crowd," he said. "I remember him boasting about how he and his friends had attacked a boy in the area and how they cut off his ear."

Jermaine told Dobson: "I know that you never killed Stephen Lawrence, but I know for a fact that you do know who killed him."

Dobson - who revealed that he planned to write a book about his experiences - said he was not working, did not claim benefit and was supported by his parents.

through the same traumatic experience as I have," he said. "We stand by each other, all five of us, 100 per cent down the middle."

Asked by David, a listener from Manchester, whether he was intimidated by David Norris and two other suspects, Jamie and Neil Acourt, he replied: "Absolutely not. They're good friends of mine. Neil and I have been on holiday together with our girlfriends."

Callers included several former friends from Dobson's school days in Eltham, southeast London, including a young black man, Jermaine, who accused him of being an "under-cover racist".

"Gary Dobson is a follower and he will follow the crowd," he said. "I remember him boasting about how he and his friends had attacked a boy in the area and how they cut off his ear."

Jermaine told Dobson: "I know that you never killed Stephen Lawrence, but I know for a fact that you do know who killed him."

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## Stress of the job takes toll on divorce lawyers

YOUNG FEMALE divorce lawyers are most at risk from stress, says the legal profession's counselling service. Some have threatened suicide and others suffer enormous strain on their relationships.

Figures released by the service today show that cases of stress among lawyers have doubled in the last 15 months. Forty per cent of women who contacted SolCare, the helpline and healthcare advice service funded by the Law Society, worked on divorce or child custody.

Most were under 30 and said that their firms failed to provide day-to-day support. Barry Pritchard, the SolCare national coordinator, said that many had to deal with "enormous pressures" from clients as well.

One 27-year-old woman from a high street practice in the Home Counties said that "hor-

BY ROBERT VERNICK  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

rific" workloads meant her marriage to her non-lawyer husband was "on the rocks".

She told the helpline: "I work to 9pm every night and have to come in at weekends. The work is much more emotionally demanding than I had expected."

Another said: "If I go to my partner [in the firm] for help, he tells me he'll deal with it later. But usually it's something urgent that can't wait."

Susannah Haan, chairwoman of the Trainee Solicitors Group, said the group's own helpline had received 214 calls from young solicitors in the last year, two-thirds of whom were women. Two had threatened suicide and some said that their supervising partner had bullied them.

Gillian Bishop, who helped set up self-help groups for stressed lawyers, said it took a particularly hard-hearted lawyer not to be affected by the troubles of distressed clients.

Rosemary Carter, chairman of the Solicitors Family Law Association, blamed the Government for the problem.

She said that the last year had seen a high level of government-generated family law reform, which lawyers had to come to terms with. Last month, the Lord Chancellor backed down on plans to scrap legal aid for family law cases. "I have no doubt that contributed to lawyers' worries," she said.

What SolCare cannot explain is why so few male family lawyers contacted its helpline. Ms Carter said: "It is probably a macho thing where men don't like to admit to their emotions."

THE ROYAL Shakespeare Company yesterday issued a warning to primary schools yesterday that its latest production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is "too adult" for young children.

RSC managers were forced to send out the letter after the production was criticised as "sexually explicit" by teachers who walked out during a performance, taking pupils with them.

The children, from Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic primary school in

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

Coventry, walked out of the production at Stratford-upon-Avon after watching scenes in which Titania simulates having sex with Bottom, who wears a donkey costume during the act.

The 10- and 11-year-olds from the school travelled to see the matinee performance after studying extracts from the play as part of their daily national literacy hour. But by the interval teachers had decided the production "went a bit too far".

Their teacher, Stephen McGaw, said: "What we saw was not what we were expecting. It was sexually explicit and it seemed the director had decided to play the sex card at every opportunity. Everyone knows Shakespeare was a bit cheeky and a bit bawdy, but this went a bit too far."

"I know the play and I have seen various productions, and this was nothing like I had ever seen before."

"At the interval I called the children together and asked them why they thought I

had gathered them together. "One boy said: 'Because it is not suitable for children.' I was relieved they thought that and we left quietly. We didn't make a fuss and we didn't complain."

"The RSC is a wonderful institution and, as an English specialist I admire the wonderful work they do in preserving Shakespeare's works. I just wish they had told us it was a bit near the mark when we booked and we would have simply said 'no thank you'."

The school has now asked the company for a refund.

As spokeswoman for the RSC said the company had now written to primary schools warning them that the production was "too adult" for youngsters.

"It is a vibrant, energetic production, which older children and adults will love," she said.

"We obviously sell tickets for all our productions in advance of the opening nights, and often the only information available in advance is details of the design and casting, not the way the play is being performed."



Ray Fearon, first black Othello at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre since Paul Robeson (right). Geraint Lewis, Hulton Getty



First black Othello at RSC since Robeson

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

THE ROYAL Shakespeare Company actor Ray Fearon is to become the first black actor to play Othello on the RSC's main stage in Stratford-upon-Avon since the American actor and singer Paul Robeson in 1959.

The play has not been performed at all in Stratford's Royal Shakespeare Theatre since 1985, as the company has not been prepared to have a white actor "black-up".

The black opera singer Willard White played the part at the RSC's studio auditorium in 1989.

Fearon will play opposite Zoe Wanamaker. The pair recently played Romeo and Juliet for the company. The production, opening next week, will be the first play directed on Stratford's main stage by the RSC principal associate director Michael Attenborough.

## Titania is 'too sexy' for schools

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Friday 16 April 1999  
ns race with India  
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## Hobby police get serious

EUROPEAN TIMES  
BERLIN

THE VOLUNTEER Police Reserves of Berlin, set up in the West on the day the Wall was built, have been under-employed of late. Restricted to the unchallenging task of keeping an eye on dogs that offend against the laws of hygiene, these vigilantes of the Free World have been complaining of boredom. More than a few have taken to gun-running, burglary and marching in Nazi uniforms.

But help is at hand. Ten years after the fall of the Wall, this ageing band of Cold War warriors are to ride again. The city government has drafted a new law which, once through, will give them new powers. Their outfit would be known as the "Volunteer Police Service" and they would be allowed for the first time to drive police patrol cars.

Then, no longer will they confine their loiterings to the city's parks. Berlin's "Hobby Polizisten", as they are contemptuously known to their professional colleagues, could in future be sent after thieves, burglars and thugs. They will be encouraged to bring unruly motorists to order, dishing out fines in situations where their jaded, full-time colleagues might be inclined to turn a blind eye.

And despite the expanded duties, they will have enhanced responsibility for Berlin's notorious plague of dog excrement. No pooch will be able to hide from their watchful gaze.

The reorganisation is intended to lighten the burden of the professional police force. Since the borders to the east became porous, Berlin has emerged as Germany's crime capital, host to a swarm of mafias originating from the former Soviet Union. But there aren't enough policemen, and the near-

bankrupt local government lacks funds to hire more. According to the police union, Berlin is short of 1,000 professionals on the beat. The shortage was finally exposed in February when the Israeli general consulate was given inadequate protection from Kurdish demonstrators. Israeli guards stepped into the void, fired into the crowd and killed four protesters.

The police should be delighted with the help they are getting. But they are out. "Members of the Police Reserve will be given only a two-week crash course," complained Eberhard Schönberg, head of the police trade union of Berlin. "Then they will be squeezed into a uniform, a weapon placed into their hands to be let loose among the population."

Whether the course is too long or too short is a moot point since, in the past, members of the criminal fraternity sought out the volunteers' training establishments to sharpen their own skills. An investigation a few years ago revealed that the ranks of the volunteers harboured more than 100 convicted criminals.

Also worrying many Berliners is the prospect of these new sheriff's deputies with guns in their hands. After a series of gun-related incidents, a parliamentary inquiry was conducted into the illegal weapons trade in the city in 1993. Twelve neo-Nazi gun-dealers were identified. Five of them were police volunteers.

Berliners, especially left-wingers, do not fancy their chances. The Bill is due to go before the city parliament at the end of this month. If it passes, the police union has already indicated that it will fight it all the way to Germany's Constitutional Court. IMRE KARACS



A woman preparing to vote in the presidential election in Algiers yesterday AP

## Algerians vote in one-horse election race

BY EILEEN BYRNE  
in Algiers

ALGERIANS VOTED to choose the country's first civilian president since 1965 yesterday - knowing even before they cast their votes who the winner would be. The race was reduced to little more than farce after six of the seven candidates pulled out, fearing that the balloting was rigged.

The single remaining candidate, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, viewed as the choice of the powerful military, said that he would accept victory only if backed by a large majority of the electorate and a massive turnout. Early polling was moderate but this did not deter Mr Bouteflika's campaign managers from insisting that the turnout would be sufficient to confer legitimacy on any victory.

The anti-army figures in the ballot pulled out in protest at alleged fraud in early polling for security forces and at mobile stations in Algeria's vast Saharan expanse. However, it also appeared to be a revolt against the army-backed order that has bred fraud and corruption since Algeria gained independence from France in 1962.

The withdrawal was a blow to hopes that the voting would heal divisions in a nation caught up in a cycle of violence since

Liamine Zeroual refused to discuss the claims of fraud, suggesting that they file formal complaints. In a nationwide address, Mr Zeroual - a retired general - stepped down 18 months before his five-year term ends - sharply criticised the move and ordered the election to continue.

Mr Bouteflika has been hailed in the press as the "candidate of consensus", a derogatory reference to his backing from a wide swath of the establishment - including the National Liberation Front which ruled Algeria for three decades, the powerful UGTA union, and a moderate Islamic party in the coalition government.

Despite the setback, the presidential campaign has not been marred by the bloodshed of the 1965 general election. Security at polling booths was all but invisible - a sign of the dwindling violence in the region. In previous votes, heavily armed soldiers kept watch.

However, 10 people were reported killed on Monday by anti-government guerrillas in the western province of Mascara, and Algerian newspapers reported several clashes between government troops and Muslim rebels.

## China clamps down on anniversary protests

DISSIDENTS WERE under tight surveillance yesterday as police cordoned off the grave of Hu Yaobang, the reformist leader whose death exactly 10 years ago sparked China's 1989 pro-democracy movement. At least two dissidents have been prevented from travelling to Mr Hu's grave in the south-east province of Jiangxi.

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

China's leadership fears that a string of imminent anniversaries could be a focus for protests over grievances, including rising urban unemployment and corruption. "We have been ordered by our superiors not to organise or en-

courage students to mourn Hu Yaobang," said an administrator at Gonggong College in Gongqingcheng city, where Mr Hu's grave lies.

Yesterday morning in Jiangxi, a journalist for the Associated Press saw several motorcades with police escorts entering the Yaobang cemetery, which was closed to the public. The reporter

was then detained by police for four hours and afterwards ordered not to leave his hotel.

In Peking, a member of the China Democracy Party, Gao Hongming, said he and two colleagues from the outlawed group had paid their respects to Mr Hu - who was the Communist Party head for six years in the Eighties - near Tiananmen

Square on Wednesday, even though they were tailored by police. Yesterday, he was under tighter surveillance.

"The China Democracy Party, like the people of China, will cherish forever those who speak the truth and do good deeds for the people," the dissidents said in a statement to mark the anniversary.

Mr Hu was the most reformist of China's leaders but was ousted in January 1987, for being too soft on "bourgeois liberalism". Just two days after his death was announced on 15 April 1989, the first procession to Tiananmen Square took place, starting a movement which ended on 4 June when tanks and soldiers swept through Peking.

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##### Epernay, Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche

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The village of Vertus lies 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region. The charm and warmth offered by the Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche is quite typical of the hotels in this region. The hotel has a swimming-pool, sauna and fitness room and the bedrooms are large and sumptuously decorated, with en suite bathrooms. The Hostellerie also boasts wine-cellars holding vintages dating back to 1929 to accompany its restaurant's fine gastronomic cuisine.

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Located just 2km from the centre of Reims, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In addition to the heated indoor swimming-pool, guests have free use of the sauna. A gastronomic experience at the popular restaurant is certainly not to be missed. All bedrooms have satellite TV and mini-bar. Buffet breakfast and private outdoor parking.

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Assiette Champenoise	99	38	109	44

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157 62 Awest	150.0	40	18	151.3000	76	48	48	48	48	1,000.0	788	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	556	150.0	556
781 391 Auto Rubber	510.0	44	42	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	557	150.0	557
139 94 Brax	130.0	50	50	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	558	150.0	558
140 141 Brax	130.0	50	50	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	559	150.0	559
405 292 Fiat Auto	200.0	22	22	155.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	560	150.0	560
1,000 638 GM	1,000.0	125	125	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	561	150.0	561
695 361 Honda Cr	517.3	52	52	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	562	150.0	562
478 123 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	563	150.0	563
289 269 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	564	150.0	564
249 269 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	565	150.0	565
157 62 Awest	150.0	40	18	151.3000	76	48	48	48	48	1,000.0	788	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	566	150.0	566
781 391 Auto Rubber	510.0	44	42	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	567	150.0	567
139 94 Brax	130.0	50	50	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	568	150.0	568
140 141 Brax	130.0	50	50	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	569	150.0	569
405 292 Fiat Auto	200.0	22	22	155.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	570	150.0	570
1,000 638 GM	1,000.0	125	125	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	571	150.0	571
695 361 Honda Cr	517.3	52	52	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	572	150.0	572
478 123 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	573	150.0	573
289 269 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	574	150.0	574
249 269 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	575	150.0	575
157 62 Awest	150.0	40	18	151.3000	76	48	48	48	48	1,000.0	788	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	576	150.0	576
781 391 Auto Rubber	510.0	44	42	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	577	150.0	577
139 94 Brax	130.0	50	50	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	578	150.0	578
140 141 Brax	130.0	50	50	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	579	150.0	579
405 292 Fiat Auto	200.0	22	22	155.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	580	150.0	580
1,000 638 GM	1,000.0	125	125	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	581	150.0	581
695 361 Honda Cr	517.3	52	52	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	582	150.0	582
478 123 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	583	150.0	583
289 269 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	584	150.0	584
249 269 Lotus Cr	385.0	25	25	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	585	150.0	585
157 62 Awest	150.0	40	18	151.3000	76	48	48	48	48	1,000.0	788	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	586	150.0	586
781 391 Auto Rubber	510.0	44	42	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	587	150.0	587
139 94 Brax	130.0	50	50	150.1000	130	95	95	95	95	1,025.0	91	150.0	150.0	150.0	1.0	588</td		

# Takeover talk sets Asda's tills ringing

A NEAR hysterical rush into Asda sent the shares of the nation's third-largest supermarket chain soaring 17.25p to 176.5p. By Asda standards it was an incredible jump; on a good day the shares move 5p.

Wal-Mart, the US retailer thought to be stalking a British retailer, was largely responsible for the excitement. Kingfisher was also in the frame. But independent research suggesting the group is winning market share and a series of meetings with analysts also contributed to the up-surge.

According to Seag, turnover nudged 39 million shares with three-quarters of the business conducted through the old-fashioned market-making system.

The pattern of the Asda share turnover suggested it was speculative interest that dominated the buying. Wal-Mart, which has already moved into Germany, has made no secret of its desire to expand elsewhere in Europe.

The stock market is convinced it will not be long before

## MARKET REPORT

**DEREK PAIN**

Blue chips suffered a modest reverse but the mid-cap, and to a lesser extent, the small-cap indices moved ahead. Footsie fell 27.5 points to 6,466.1; the mid-cap jumped 6.8 to 5,707.3 and the small-cap rose 5.2 to 2,454.1. It was another squeeze session with expectations of corporate activity providing much of the action.

But Billiton and Rio Tinto owed their strength to the overnight advance of commodity shares on Wall Street, where investors took the view the recovering world economies will trigger fresh demand. Billiton gained 18p to 187.5p and Rio 25p to 1,040p.

Imperial Chemical Industries duly clinched its £1.7bn sale to the US Huntsman group and rose 23.5p to 659p; at one time the shares were down 25.5p.

BT firm 9p to 1,084p on Goldman Sachs support and Thames Water rose 27.5p to 915.5p with Credit Lyonnais offering support.

Investor Henderson Crosthwaite put J Sainsbury, trading statement today on its list and Teather & Greenwood moved Sencita, the drugs group, from buy to sell. Sainsbury firm 5.5p to 375p and Scotia, ending development of a cancer drug, fell 13p to 126p.

On the takeover front Alexander Russell, the aggregates group, tumbled 25p to 112.5p after calling off talks with RMC, up 53p at 918p.

CA Couts held at 165p; after the market closed it was announced that the company's independent director, Henry Cubbon, had rejected a 160p management buy-out and the bid had been dropped.

Poly pipe finished 9.5p higher to 202p as IMI, up 27p to 299p, produced a 200p cash offer. IIma, the computer consultancy group, rose 26p to 120p, as a takeover approach, presumably from interests related to former chairman Michael Norman, was signalled. Mr Cannon and friends have been stake building VDC, distributing products

it descends on a British operation. Asda, because of the shape and size of its retail spread, is seen in many quarters as an ideal acquisition for the Americans. Rumours have swirled about a deal but Asda has in the past denied any talks were going on. Kingfisher could also contemplate an Asda strike.

Archie Norman, the Asda chief, is a former Kingfisher finance director and it is known the two retailers have held exploratory talks. Kingfisher appears to have reacquired its taste for food and is testing the hyper-market concept.

Asda is not the only group seen as a potential Wal-Mart target. In recent months Safeway, MFI and Booker, the cash-and-carry chain, have been the subjects of intense speculation.

The independent AGB survey showed Asda was out performing its supermarket rivals. The analyst meetings, which appeared to underline the AGB encouragement, are being held before the chain goes into its close season ahead of results.

Asda shares were at one time up 18.25p; they peaked at 214p last summer and, with talk of price wars and Government probes undermining supermarket sentiment, fell to 140p last month.

The rest of the market replicated Wednesday's display.



to vets, gained 30p to 175p after a 190p bid was indicated.

Five, an ironmongery group now largely a cash shell, rose 5.5p to 66.5p with disco chain Northern Leisure displaying predatory intentions. Any deal would, in effect, be a cash raising exercise by the dancing group.

Lasmo gushed 19.25p to 139.75p, seemingly of institutional interest, although some wondered about corporate action. Rank up 21.5p to 271.5p and, yet again, Pilkington, 5p to 84.5p, were drawn into takeover speculation.

The mid-cap index's

progress was in part due to a recovery by engineering and packaging and paper shares.

Hewlett-Packard improved 18p to 219p, Premier Farwell 17.5p to 245p and Reamex 16.5p to 234p.

The improving housing market helped MFI, the furniture chain, achieve a 7p gain to 49.5p.

Recent high flyers, such as Dixons, down 84p to 1,387p, were at a low ebb, and Astra Zeneca's headache continued with a 7p fall to 2,650p. The

NORTHERN PETROLEUM, an oil group which has collapsed from nearly 60p to 2.5p, doubled to 5p as a rescuer materialised.

Bruce Rowan, a shareholder, is pumping £100,000 into the group in exchange for shares and hoping to arrange further finance. His holding will remain below 29.9 per cent. Derek Musgrave, ex-Rio Tinto, becomes managing director, and oil analyst David Roberts has joined the board. Ellis & Partners become stockbrokers.

shares have yet to score a solitary gain since the Anglo-Swedish merger was completed last week.

Other drug groups were under the weather with Morgan Stanley said to be making cautious noises. Glaxo Wellcome fell 11.5p to 1,885p.

Waste Recycling fell 17.5p to 450p despite bullish noises from BT Alex Brown. It said: "We continue to expect the stock to outperform on a longer term view, given the group's well-above-average forecast growth profile."

Food group Jhnh Lusty firm 1p to 5.5p on director buying and Intelligent Environments jumped 20.5p to 105p after an investment meeting.

London Pacific's high-flying display took it a shade too close to the sun and the shares fell 75p to 425.5p. Their giddy display lifted the price 280p in two days as the market grew excited about its US Internet associations. In November the shares were down to 155p.

On Ofex 1Collector, an Internet auction and antiques business which has moved ahead strongly, fell 70p to 310p. A company related to French tycoon Bernard Arnault, who runs LVMH, has taken a 20 per cent interest at 238p a share.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.3 billion SEAQ TRADES: 93,567 GILTS INDEX: 111.03 -3.07

Source: Bloomberg

## SPORT

Olympic Games: Fantastic Four show benefits of high-tech facilities as golden hopes of the future flourish in Florida

# Britain counts on magic of Disney

BY NICK HARRIS  
in Orlando

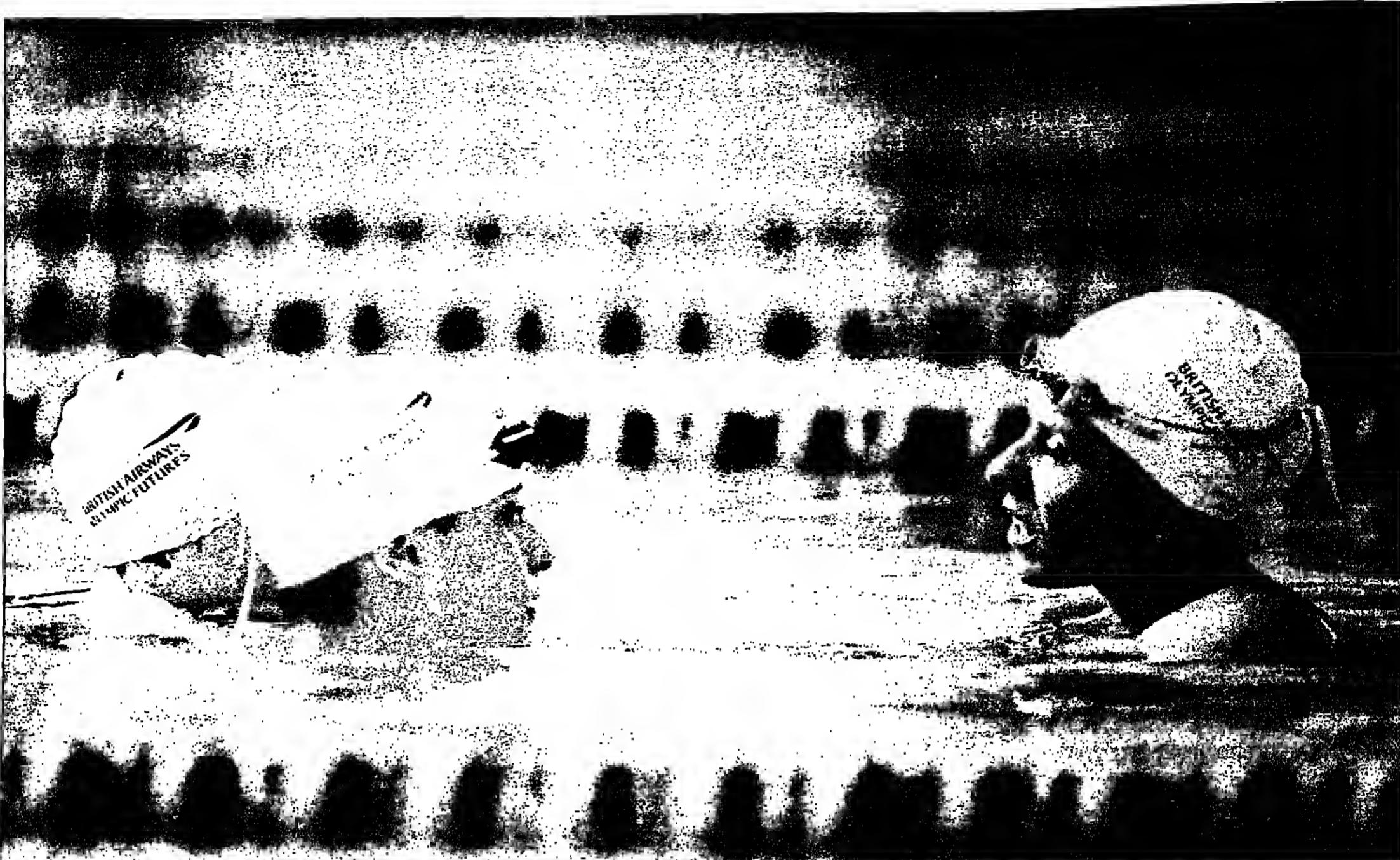
IF THE Fantastic Four sound like Disney characters, then it is partly because they are. Their names will not be familiar (yet), but attending a warm-weather training camp in Florida could change all that.

Mark Lewis-Francis, aged 16, is the fastest man in the world of his age over 100 metres. Nathan Palmer, also 16, is already breaking records set by Britain's No 1 hurdler, Colin Jackson. The self-styled Four - they each don a single blue glove to signal their allegiance to self-belief - are completed by Tim Benjamin, a prospect over 200m and Aaron Evans (400m), and were just a quartet among 110 of the country's brightest young sporting hopes to spend 10 days at the British Airways Olympic Futures camp in Orlando.

The young sportsmen and women, ranging from 12 to 18 and representing the cream of British athletics, swimming, cycling, judo, gymnastics, basketball and badminton, were put through their paces in an environment that British sporting heroes of the past could only have dreamt about. "I wish this type of project had been available when I was 13 or 14. It would've made such a difference," Sharon Davies, the Olympic medal-winner and "camp mother" to this next generation of hopefuls, said during a break in her motivational duties in Florida last month.

"The kids at the camp learn that their problems are the same as everyone else's, whether it's their schoolwork or training or money problems," she added of one benefit of bringing together such a group. Another benefit, Davies added, was that by being nurtured in a professional environment, the chances of burn-out and disillusionment could be diminished. Of her own Olympic triumph - winning medal at the 1980 Games - she added: "When I looked at the board in Moscow all I thought was not 'I've won a silver medal' but 'great, now I can give up'."

Experiences such as Davies', the British Olympic Association hopes, may now become a thing of the past, and the first fruits of the camp could come as soon as July, when a number of those attending will form the backbone of the Great Britain team being sent to the European Youth Olympic Days (the youth Olympics) in Esbjerg in Denmark. Steve Backley and Dwan Chambers used past EYOD successes as springboards to greater things, and the BOA hopes that those competing this summer



Sharon Davies (right) gives Victoria Cook (left) and James Goddard the benefit of her experience as an Olympic medallist in the pool at the British training camp in Orlando

Allsport

will make similar progress, if not in time for next year's Sydney Olympics, then in time for Athens in 2004.

The aims of the three BAOF camps - the first took place for winter sports athletes last year at Crystal Palace, and the third will take place ahead of next year's Millennium Games - are simple: to give young British sportsmen and women access to multi-sports facilities and give them a taste of what it might be like to compete in major events. While that might sound a modest ambition, it is actually a minor revolution. For a nation that supposedly

had ever trained at a warm-weather camp prior to travelling to Orlando, and none had experienced anything close to the range of facilities they found when they got there. "For many of them, it's the first time they've been in a multi-sport environment. It's important they get used to being in camp situations," Mark Howell of the BOA, said. "The fact is that if BA [putting £350,000 into the project] weren't sponsoring it, it wouldn't be happening. That's something that needs to be addressed by the government."

For a nation that supposedly

cherishes its sporting idols, Britain is some way behind its competitors in providing the necessary facilities to achieve its goals. If nothing else, the tally of just 49 British Olympic post-war gold medals (the US has won well over 500, more than twice as many per head) speaks volumes. Most of the swimmers who attended the Orlando camp train in 25-metre pools at home (there are only a handful of 50-metre pools in the country) and have to get up well before 6am for the privilege. The gymnasts often train in halls that bear no resemblance to competition

surroundings. The cyclists and track and field athletes have to suffer the inclement British climate, and few of the 110 who went to Orlando are able to train as often as they would like because travelling every day to appropriate facilities is impractical. The main training centre at the Disney Wide World of Sport (which the senior Olympic squad uses regularly), has a first-class track, an enormous complex of gyms and weight rooms, its own baseball stadium and a velodrome bought wholesale from the Atlanta Olympics, not to mention a 50-metre swimming pool and specialist medical facilities a stone's throw away, and fine weather. For the duration of the camp, the BOA also provided the participants with workshops on nutrition, sports psychology, physiology, career development and working with the media.

Whether all this will actually pay dividends remains to be seen, but the coaching staff at the camp are adamant that it can do nothing but good. "These youngsters need to realise how good they are," Brian Hall, the athletics team director, said. "It's hard to make them realise

that they're the best young athletes in Britain and that they are the future," he added, and said that by treating them as such was one way to help realise their potential.

In Tokyo in 1964, before Disney had even laid a foundation brick in Florida, Britain had a fantastic four gold medallists in Lynn Davies and Mary Rand (both long jump), Ann Packer (800m) and Ken Matthews (20km walk). Perhaps, when we realise that investing in our sporting future is no Mickey Mouse endeavour, future Games will see similar rewards and better

## SIX YOUNG MEDAL HUNTERS TO FOLLOW ON THE ROAD FROM ORLANDO



MOHAMMED FARAH  
16-year-old athlete  
3000m and cross-country



MARK LEWIS-FRANCIS  
16-year-old athlete  
100m



NATHAN PALMER  
16-year-old athlete  
110m hurdles



SALLY RUSBATCH  
14-year-old swimmer  
100m and 200m backstroke  
national champion



REBECCA MASON  
12-year-old gymnast  
National Under-14 champion



STUART HOLDER  
16-year-old badminton player  
National Under-17  
singles/doubles champion

"The most exciting endurance talent we've had for a long time," said Brian Hall, the British athletics team manager, of Farah, who came to Britain from Somalia five years ago and is in the process of obtaining a British passport. "When I started running aged 11, I couldn't speak English well," Farah said. "Because I couldn't understand the directions during cross country races, I didn't know where to go and just followed the people in front." He learnt English (and the way) and now regularly wipes the floor with the opposition by over a minute. His hero is Haile Gebrselassie. "I like the way he runs. I'd like to do that. It would mean a great deal to run for Britain."

"The camp is going to help me a lot," Lewis-Francis, founder of the Fantastic Four, said. "Here, you're out training all week, every day, where at home I'd normally only train twice a week. You can spend a lot more time on it, not trying to get everything into the two sessions. I've learned to take my time." He has recorded 10.49sec for a relay in the Sydney Olympics. "My starts need to be worked on, and I also run bending forward too much and I need to straighten up." Of the blue glove he and three team-mates wear in races, he said: "We're all going to wear it when we go home and take it forward with us."

Hoping to follow in Colin Jackson's footsteps, Palmer has already broken the 110m hurdles record that Britain's No 1 recorded at his age. Jackson did a time of 13.19sec, while Palmer has registered 12.96sec. A talented all-round sportsman, Palmer played rugby for Wales Under-16s and football at the Cardiff City school of excellence before deciding to concentrate on athletics. "The athletics was more a challenge. I get more out of it," he said. Like Mark Lewis-Francis, he's a member of the self-styled Fantastic Four, and, perhaps with an eye on the commercial future, always sports his Nike-logoed blue glove.

"The camp has made me feel very professional," Rusbatch said. "We've had to keep a log book of swims including heart-rate intensities, and how we feel after each swim." The 7am-9am and 1.30pm-3.30pm training sessions in Orlando offered the chance of a break from 5.15am starts and late-night finishes. "Managing school and sport is difficult. Sharon Davies gave us some valuable information. She said you can always go back to your education but you can't go back to your sport. She's been really friendly. I didn't think she'd be like that. I thought she'd be more professional [and aloof]."

"The gyms here have more of a competition layout," said the Cheshire gymnast of the Orlando facilities. "And it's a lot warmer than at home." Becky, regarded as the brightest prospect in British gymnastics - started her sport at five but will have to wait until 2004 for a chance of competing in the Olympics. The minimum age in senior competition is now 16. With more muscle definition and power in her 4ft-something frame than most people will ever have, her favourite (and best) discipline is the asymmetric bars and her next target is the European Youth Olympic Days in Denmark in July.

## Giggs plucky, not 'lucky'

Sir: While acknowledging the brilliance of the Ryan Giggs goal in the FA Cup semi-final replay on Wednesday night many of the TV pundits, and some sports journalists, referred to a "lucky boffle".

In scoring the goal Giggs beat Vieira, Dixon, Keown, Dixon (again), and Adams. The first player to touch the ball, after Giggs got hold of it in his own half, was David Seaman, when he picked it from the back of the Arsenal net.

"Boffle" or not, to refer to anything about the goal as being "lucky" does a great injustice to Ryan Giggs, given that, in extra-time with his side down to 10 men, he ran clean through the best defence in England and scored to put Manchester United through to the FA Cup final.

## SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

As to whether it was the greatest goal ever, this is, of course, a matter of debate. It will certainly be a goal, and a match, that will live long in the memory.

DANIEL HAYNES  
Forest Hill, London

**Same old story**  
Sir: Why are football managers so transparent? When a referee makes an error, their reactions are completely predictable. "He's cost us the game! I couldn't believe that decision! I'd better not say any more."

Referees are not perfect; never have been, never will be. But they're the best means we have of enforcing the rules and

controlling hugely overpaid players. Referee Paul Durkin admitted this week that he missed a hand ball in the FA Cup semi-final between Newcastle and Tottenham for which he was roundly criticised. I'll have more sympathy with his critics when they tell their pampered players to stop trying to con officials and get fellow professionals sent off.

GEORGE MITCHELL,  
Apsley, Herts

**Red intent**

Sir: I cannot understand why there is a debate about the sending-off of Southampton's Claus Lundekvam at Villa Park last Saturday. The fact that the

linesman had flagged for another infringement was completely unknown to Lundekvam who went in with intent to commit a foul and the intent is what counts, not whether the ball is still live or not.

If a player kicks another in the penalty area while waiting for a corner or free-kick to be taken, the award is still a penalty and probably a red card - you don't say "oh, no problem mate, the ball is out of play at the moment - hit him again, why don't you?"

Lundekvam sought to break the laws, had no chance of getting the ball and, regardless of the state of play, deserved his punishment.

NIGEL CUBBAGE  
Martygate, Herts

Welsh wails  
Sir: I look forward, optimistically, to Alan Watkins' Rugby column each week. However, my confidence is invariably misplaced as each time the bias with which the article is delivered leaves me feeling that this particular scribe should be consigned to the Pontypridd edition of your splendid newspaper! When will the wider view be expressed? Why no mention of Scotland's marvellous revival and awe-inspiring performance against the French? (Wales find redemption at church of Wembley, 13 April)

Also, what of the decline of our Gallic cousins? Mr Watkins' views

on his countrymen are welcome, but remember, a balanced perspective will always be more absorbing than blatant partiality.

IAN MACKINNON  
London

**Open to debate**

Sir: As the the Five Nations' Championship moves into a new era, I would like to recommend some changes to the rules. For as long as I can remember, there has been concern over the paucity of open play and the predominance of kicking.

The last 10 or 15 years have seen the IRB tinker with the rules - changing the value of the try, the introduction of the

indirect free kick, the acceptance of lifting in the line-out, etc. However, it is still too easy for a team to win without scoring a try.

My proposed changes are:

- Replace the line-out with a throw-in into open play (it is almost impossible to lose your own throw-in, so this would get the ball into play much quicker).
- Tries should remain worth five points, but conversions will no longer be available.
- Direct free-kicks should be confined to serious infringements - dangerous tackles, raking, dropping of scrums, intentional offside, etc - and be worth five points. A yellow and/or red card should be shown to the offender.

All other infringements should be punished by indirect free-kicks, which would have to be run, rather than kicked. After all, rugby is all about running with the ball, rather than kicking.

ANDREW BOWDLER  
Working in Nepal with the International Nepal Fellowship

Healthcare  
Championship

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Policy

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Public Relations

Media

Events

Marketing

Research

Education

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Policy

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Research

Education

Training & Development

# County Championship: Gloucestershire's fightback may be in vain while Leicestershire all-rounder cuts loose

## Harvey delays Surrey's charge

AGAINTS A backdrop of pristine white, the banks of freshly painted seats largely bereft of fans and the smart new perimeter fence strangely unburdened by advertising hoardings, Surrey assumed a position of some strength here yesterday - thanks to the efforts of their acting captain, Mark Butcher, and their sometime England leg-spinner Ian Salisbury - before a clatter of wickets in the evening sunshine introduced an unexpected element of doubt into today's proceedings.

Mike Smith, the Gloucestershire left-ARMER, responded to a first-innings deficit of 129 with a fine spell to remove four Surrey batsmen while Butcher held the fort for the hosts, moving serenely on towards a century that should ensure that Surrey start the final day as favourites to win.

Earlier Salisbury had found both lift and considerable turn while Alex Tudor generated exceptional pace, although his waywardness meant he went wicketless. But Gloucestershire's batsmen, by and large had only themselves to blame for their predicament.

Resuming on 55 for 2 the day started inauspiciously for them with just seven runs coming from the first seven overs. In the eighth Mark Alleyne, trying to instil some urgency, was trapped on the back pad by Martin Bicknell as he tried to work an inswinger through mid-on and the captain's departure set the tone for the innings.

Tim Hancock, starting on 22, quietly made his way past the 50 mark before succumbing in Gary Butcher's first over for his new county, a tiny inside edge leaving the stumps in a fearful mess, and then Salisbury turned one away from Matt Windows and had him caught behind with the score at 118.

With Ian Harvey suffering from a stiff back after being welcomed to the delights of an English spring by Tuesday's freezing temperatures, Jeremy Snape came in ahead of the Australian all-rounder to join Jack Russell and see Gloucestershire's

BY ADAM SZRETER  
at The Oval

Surrey 342 & 156-5  
Gloucestershire 213

tershire through to lunch without further mishap. However, shortly afterwards Snape, playing forward to Salisbury, became the game's seventh lbw victim.

Two balls later Gloucestershire looked in complete disarray as Martyn Ball danced down the wicket to Salisbury, took an almighty heave and was comprehensively bowled, and when Jon Lewis followed, pushing hopefully at Bicknell and being taken at slip by Aly Brown, there were still 33 needed to avoid the follow on.

At this juncture Harvey finally appeared with Snape as his runner and while it took him some time to get going - 17 balls to be precise - when he did he alighted Gloucestershire's worst fears with a series of meaty blows. He took a particular liking to Ben Hollioake's bowling, taking 17 off one of his overs to see his side safely past their first target.

With mission accomplished,

however, Harvey tried to pull Hollioake for a second huge six over square leg and was caught in the deep, and when Smith fell second ball Gloucestershire were left with a sizeable arrears.

When Surrey batted again they lost Ian Ward in the first over of the innings, caught in the gully flashing at a wide one from Snape, and Jason Hattcliffe, on a pair, looked far from happy once more before Lewis found some extra lift to have him caught at second slip.

Nadeem Shahid, having survived a loud shout for leg before against Smith before tea, fell to a ball angled across him shortly afterwards while Brown and Hollioake were both undone by balls from Smith that moved back in towards them.

It was an admirable effort by Smith but, with Butcher still there and the lead approaching 300, it is already beginning to look in vain.

THEY CAN label Chris Lewis the 'Enigma' but there was no mystery behind the hundred he took off Essex yesterday. It was down, pure and simple, to an obscene amount of talent. It was the sort of performance which makes a mockery of another label assigned to the all-rounder: 'Former England player'. On this showing he could take apart any attack in the world, let alone a somewhat fragile Essex band.

Remarkably, given the outrageous gifts of this man when on song, it was Lewis's first hundred since 1994 and only the eighth of his career. It was well worth the wait, though, it was speckled with sparkling shots and he hardly missed a beat. The only glimmer of a chance - although Peter Such may prefer to call it something else - merely served to add injury to insult.

Lewis drove a screaming shot straight back at Such who had the misfortune to be in the way. He courageously attempted to hang on to the meteorite and finished up in hospital for precautionary X-rays. As it turned out there was no fracture, but plenty of pain and by then Lewis was up and running on 85.

The disappointment of Whitaker falling when half a dozen short of 80 was soon forgotten as Nixon anchored an end content, like the crowd, to enjoy the Lewis show. He still reached a century himself - his second in consecutive Championship matches, albeit seven

months apart, since he took 101 off Surrey in the final match last September.

It occupied more than five and a half hours and was the 11th of a career that deserves greater recognition than it so far has. He is without doubt one of the leading wicket-keepers-batsmen in the country along with Hampshire's Adrian Aymes and it is to be wondered just how much more either man has to do to attract selectorial attention.

Lewis on this form most certainly will. He may have missed out on a World Cup place but his two effortless sixes and 17 boundaries (the same number Nixon accrued)

were the mark of a man who can do anything. He drove, cut, pulled, dabbed and clipped, the technique flawless, the athleticism and grace boundless. His timing was immaculate. When Lewis stops being an enigma and becomes a cricketer he is something else. So is Leicestershire. The chances of Essex wiping out the 172-run deficit and going on to win this match are long, far longer than those of Leicestershire retaining their title this year.

DOUGIE BROWN, without a first-class century in 127 previous attempts, set the record straight with one of unique distinction as Warwickshire established a useful positio despite another restricted day. It was a day of records for Brown who scored not only the first hundred of the new Championship season but the earliest in the competition's history.

The 29-year-old all-rounder, who extended his score to 126 not out before the second of two stoppages for rain ended play, pipped Leicestershire's Paul Nixon to the honour of being quickest off the mark this year. The other statistic is due to the World Cup, the accommodation of which forced the fixture planners to usher in the domestic campaign earlier than ever, allowing Brown to claim a record held for 12 months by his new captain, Neil Smith, who made a Championship hundred on 17 April last year.

Brown's milestone owed something to the World Cup also; specifically, to his non-selection. Born in Stirling, he could have been there with Scotland had he not already made nine one-day appearances for England. But his fail-

BY JON CULLEY  
at Edgbaston

Warwickshire 300-9  
v Northamptonshire

ure to underline his all-rounder status with a hundred in any form of senior cricket has restricted his progress.

"It is no secret that I have underachieved batting-wise," he said, reflecting on a record that had included 17 first-class 50s. "After I was not picked for the one-dayers in Australia it was on the cards that I would not make the World Cup squad and I decided it was time to put in some solid work."

"I was aware of how many times I'd gone past 50 but then given it away on 70 or 80. So I spent the winter working on my whole approach to batting, technical and mental. I set myself a target of three centuries this season and it is good to have chalked off one of them so soon."

Brown has no regrets about opting to play for England even though he would have been a certainty for the Scotland squad. "I would love to be playing in the World Cup but I made my mind up a long time

ago that I was going to be English qualified and that is something I have got to live with."

"But I'll be very pleased if Scotland do well and I see no reason why they can't upset a few people along the way and make them work hard for their victories," Brown said.

The Edgbaston wicket offered assistance and movement to the pace bowlers and the former England international Devon Malcolm returned 6 for 116 of 29 overs for Northants, although he has bowled better for lesser reward and was flattered by those figures.

Graeme Welch (23) helped Braden add 61 in 23 overs for the seventh wicket and then Keith Piper (34), who had been forced to retire on Wednesday with a bruised index finger, returned to the wicket to add 50 with Brown. There was just time for the last man, Ed Giddins, to leg-glance Taylor for four to take the total up to 300 and that third batting point before rain returned at 5pm with a total of 44 overs lost in the day.

Paul Taylor bowled an immaculate line throughout the day and finished with 2 for 57 from 31 overs.

Lewis sparkles to end five-year wait

Brown rushes to century record

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN  
at Chelmsford

Essex 252 and 2-0  
Leicestershire 424

That was the way of things for Essex as they tried - and most definitely failed - to fling a spanner in the works of the defending champions. This Leicestershire side is a masterpiece of engineering. The component parts seem to mesh perfectly every time they are started up. There was no better example than the sixth wicket partnership between Lewis and the superbly disciplined and able wicketkeeper Paul Nixon.

He had stuck around with his captain, James Whitaker, while the heat was taken out of the attack and the chill went from the early morning air and their stand of 67 did enough to loosen Paul Nixon.

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were the mark of a man who can do anything. He drove, cut, pulled, dabbed and clipped, the technique flawless, the athleticism and grace boundless. His timing was immaculate. When Lewis stops being an enigma and becomes a cricketer he is something else. So is Leicestershire. The chances of Essex wiping out the 172-run deficit and going on to win this match are long, far longer than those of Leicestershire retaining their title this year.

### CRICKET SCOREBOARD

**THE FOSTER'S OVAL (Day 3 of 4):** Surrey are leading Gloucestershire by 285 runs with 5 second-innings wickets in hand

**SURREY — First Innings:** 342 (Ward 78, M A Butcher 68, Smith 4-93)

**GLoucestershire — First Innings:** 213 (Harris 23, R C Irani 5-59-4, P M Such 27-7-0, A P Grayson 26-10-5, S G Law 5-4-25-0).

**ESSEX — Second Innings:** Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Extras .0 .0 .0 .0

Total (for 0, 107 overs) .300

Fall: 1-2, 2-38, 3-59, 4-158, 5-159, 7-243, 8-293, 9-295.

Bowling: D E Malcolm 29-5-116-6, J P Taylor 31-1-57-2, G P Swann 18-7-45-1, D Follett 15-2-46-0, A L Pemberthy 14-7-32-0.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A G T Whitehead.

**DURHAMS v WORCESTERSHIRE**

**RIVERSIDE (Day 3 of 4):** Durham are leading Worcestershire by one run with 5 second-innings wickets in hand

Durham won toss

**WORCESTERSHIRE — First Innings:** 152 (Leatherdale 85, Brown 6-25)

**DURHAMS — First Innings:** 22-1

First Innings Contd.

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Extras .0 .0 .0 .0

Total (for 4, 48 overs) .153

Fall: 1-2, 2-96, 3-158, 4-158, 5-159, 6-182, 7-243, 8-293, 9-295.

To Bat: M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown, S J Harrison.

Bowling: A Shergill 10-2-55-1, J M de la Pena 12-5-43-1, A Leatherdale 10-0-20, C G Upot 5-30-2-0, R K Illingworth 12-2-39-1, S R Lampitt 8-5-7-1.

Umpires: J C Balderson and G Burgess.

**ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE**

**CHELMSFORD (Day 5 of 4):** Essex are trailing Leicestershire by 170 runs with all second-innings wickets in hand

Essex won toss

**ESSEX — First Innings:** 252 (Prichard 91)

**LEICESTERSHIRE — First Innings:** 122-4

First Innings Contd.

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Extras .0 .0 .0 .0

Total (for 4, 137 overs) .121

Fall: 1-2, 2-28, 3-59, 4-164, 5-170, 6-220, 7-255, 8-255, 9-294.

Bowling: J C Cook 26-5-83-2, R L Johnson 18-5-52-0, J P Hewitt 23-1-10-5, O A Shah 3-0-12-0, P C K Tufnell 26-8-45-2, P N Wicket 11-2-32-1.

**MIDDLESEX — Second Innings**

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Extras .0 .0 .0 .0

Total (for 0, 107 overs) .266

Fall: 1-2, 2-27, 3-59, 4-164, 5-170, 6-220, 7-255, 8-255, 9-294.

Bowling: J C Cook 26-5-83-2, R L Johnson 18-5-52-0, J P Hewitt 23-1-10-5, O A Shah 3-0-12-0, P C K Tufnell 26-8-45-2, P N Wicket 11-2-32-1.

Umpires: J C Cook and J P Hewitt.

**ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE**

**EDGBASTON (Day 2 of 4):** Warwickshire have scored 300 for 5 wickets against Northamptonshire

Warwickshire won toss

**WARRICKSHIRE — First Innings:** 300

First Innings Contd.

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Runs 6s 4s BIs Min

Extras .0 .0 .0 .0

Total (for 1, 96 overs) .300

Fall: 1-2, 2-128, 3-178, 4-178, 5-178, 6-178, 7-178, 8-178, 9-178, 10-178, 11-178, 12-178, 13-178, 14-178, 15-178, 16-178, 17-178, 18-178, 19-178, 20-178, 21-178, 22-178, 23-178, 24-178, 25-178, 26-178, 27-178, 28-178, 29-178, 30-178, 31-178, 32-178, 33-178, 34-178, 35-178, 36-178, 37-178, 38-178, 39-178, 40-178, 41-178, 42-178, 43-178, 44-178, 45-178, 46-178, 47-178, 48-178, 49-178, 50-178, 51-178, 52-178, 53-178, 54-178, 55-178, 56-1

# Mujahid left in Admiral's wake

BY GREG WOOD  
at Newmarket

BY THE time he stepped into the stalls before the Craven Stakes here yesterday, Mujahid had been among the favourites for the 2,000 Guineas for almost six months, ever since his victory in the Dewhurst Stakes on the other side of the Heath last October. Just 70 seconds later all that hype and hope had been torn into very small pieces, this being the time it took Mujahid to reach a spot about three furlongs out where it became clear that not only was he not going to win, he might actually finish stone cold last.

One of the bookie's reps summed it up in two words as he wrote out a new set of Guineas prices in the winners' enclosure afterwards. "Delete Mujahid" he scribbled, and we certainly can, for the time being at least, and possibly for good. It was certainly not what a horse who started at 2-5 could be expected to do, and no one was more baffled than John Dunlop, Mujahid's trainer. "I'm completely nonplussed," he said. "He moved beautifully but there was nothing there three out. Ostensibly, there was no reason why he ran so badly."

But while Mujahid was disappearing from the picture at the speed of sound, a likeable little colt called Compton Admiral was muscling his way in. Though he won only once in four outings as a juvenile, Compton Admiral was gritty and consistent, and when he hit the rising ground at the end of yesterday's race, he quickened readily to beat Brancaster and Debbie's Warning. He is now as low as 9-1 for the 2,000 Guineas, although Ladbrokes and William Hill offer 16-1. He is a 25-1 chance for the Derby.

The only success of Compton Admiral's two-year-old days was a little similar to yesterday's, in that he beat a hot favourite who was being talked



Golden Snake (left) gets the better of Gold Academy and Housemaster in the Feldeen Stakes on Newmarket's July Course yesterday

Robert Hollom

up as a Classic prospect. That horse was Killer Instinct, who is now the clear favourite for the Guineas with several bookmakers almost by default, as the bookies struggle to find a horse which has yet to embarrass itself in public. Killer Instinct runs at Newbury tomorrow afternoon, so he too could be history by sunset.

Compton Admiral, on the other hand, is a proven winner although it is child's play to pick holes in yesterday's form. With

Mujahid running so poorly, it may turn out to have been no stronger than a very average Listed race. The unexpected appearance of Debbie's Warning in the frame is also worrying.

But these are mere details as far as Gerard Butler, Compton Admiral's trainer, is concerned.

This is just his second season with a licence, and he is a young

trainer with a gleam in his eye

because he will be going to the first colts' Classics of the season with a serious contender.

"He's always had a professional manner, and wanted to do everything a little better than the others," Butler said. "In the last two weeks he's really got his act together. I think that the Guineas is one of the best trials for the Derby, and the time to find out if he stays the Derby trip is the first Saturday in June."

Golden Snake, who won the Feldeen Stakes, might be a similar sort of price for Epsom were it not for the minor obstacle that he is not entered for the Derby. Barry Hills, his trainer, had lots of nice things to say about the colt after he had beaten Gold Academy and Housemaster, but he seemed a little surprised to hear that Golden Snake is not among the Classic entries.

"I thought he was in the Derby, but there's plenty of good races," Hills said. "He's a progressive horse, with a good temperament and a high cruising speed." He has yet to decide

on Golden Snake's next assignment, although it will be hard to avoid an obvious Classic trial like the Dante Stakes at York or the Chester Vase.

There is, of course,

the option of a supplementary Derby entry at the end of May, but that would cost the small matter of £75,000. Hills left Newmarket yesterday with a £20,000 race to his credit, but as he studies the long list of unknown quantities at the top of the Derby market, he may

feel that he would give away the prize-money in return for an entry at Epsom.

2,000 GUINEAS 1 May: CORAL: 4-1 KILLER INSTINCT (from 7-1); 7-1 ENRICO (from 10-1); 8-1 COMMANDER COLLINS (from 10-1); 10-1 COUNTRY STAR (from 10-1); 11-2 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 12-1 SALTFOOT (from 10-1); 13-2 GOLD ACADEMY (from 10-1); 14-2 GOLDEN SNAKE (from 10-1); 15-2 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 16-1 KILLER INSTINCT (from 10-1); 17-1 COUNTRY STAR (from 10-1); 18-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 19-1 ENRICO (from 10-1); 20-1 RAS SHAIKH (from 10-1); 21-1 GOLD ACADEMY (from 10-1); 22-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 23-1 GOLDEN SNAKE (from 10-1); 24-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 25-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 26-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 27-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 28-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 29-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 30-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 31-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 32-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 33-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 34-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 35-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 36-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 37-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 38-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 39-1 HOUSEMASTER (from 10-1); 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# Giggs' goal a winner in every respect

The perfectly timed strike by the Manchester United winger will live long in the memory of every football supporter.

By Glenn Moore

**SINCE THE** explosion of televised football coverage the game's currency, goals, has been debased. A goal is still worth the same as it was 20 years ago but the best ones no longer sear themselves into the memory in the way they used to. Then the only goals seen were the relative few watched in the flesh, and the dozen or so per week that featured on *The Big Match* and *Match of the Day*. Since most goals, then as now, are ordinary a great goal, such as Justin Fashanu's turn and volley for Norwich against Liverpool, stuck in the mind for years.

Now every goal scored in the professional game is recorded with the result that there is usually one Premiership cracker in *Match of the Day* while the aficionados and insomniacs who watch *Nationwide League* Extra see half-a-dozen a week. It thus takes something really special to stand out: David Ginola's jugged volley against Ferencvaros, Trevor Sinclair's overhead kick for Queen's Park Rangers, Michael Owen's World Cup sprint.

Ryan Giggs' goal for Manchester United against Arsenal at Villa Park on Wednesday night was in that league. Actually, it was better. The context, an extra-time goal in a stunning FA Cup semi-final replay, eclipses all but Owen's goal and, not only was Giggs' goal better, it was also a winner.



Ryan Giggs is mobbed by his Manchester United team-mates after his extraordinary extra-time goal at Villa Park on Wednesday sent Alex Ferguson's team through to the FA Cup final. *Reuters*

When Giggs picked up the ball, well inside his own half, from a loose pass by Patrick Vieira, there was enough space in front of him to prompt the thought: "Go on, run at them, see what happens." Giggs in full flight is one of the most thrilling sights in the game but it is rarely seen, either he chooses a safer option or the opposition are too tight on him.

On Wednesday night there were no better options. United, down to 10 men, were unable to support their attacks. Arsenal,

tired themselves and committed to pushing forward, were slow to get close to Giggs. By the time they did he had picked up a head of steam. His 70-yard dribble took him past three of the Gunners' famous back four - Lee Dixon, Martin Keown and Tony Adams - plus Vieira. Dixon he beat twice.

With respect to Barnsley, this made it rather better than

Ginola's recent FA Cup goal, even if Giggs, having come on as a substitute, was fresher than his opponents. Yet it

looked, as he approached the six-yard box, that he had run out of space but the finish, a rising drive into the roof of the net, was as good as the preamble. Inevitably, after a high like that, yesterday morning brought a hangover as United counted the cost. Giggs, who suffered a late ankle injury, is unlikely to play against Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday but should be available for next week's European Cup semi-final second leg against Juventus. The condition of Peter

Schmeichel, who was hobbling by the end having damaged his left side making the third of a trio of fine saves from Dennis Bergkamp, is still uncertain. So worried was Alex Ferguson he even considered putting Paul Scholes in goal. Denis Irwin, who was injured in the first match, is also doubtful while Keane will miss the Premier League match with Aston Villa on 1 May following his dismissal. Should United beat Juventus, they will have another problem. The FA Cup final is four days be-

fore the European Cup final against Bayern Munich or Dynamo Kiev in Barcelona. As for Arsenal, they have an extra two days to recover before playing Wimbledon on Monday. Marc Overmars' and bruised confidence, having been outplayed for much of both matches, are their biggest problems. Chelsea, incidentally, host Leicester on Sunday. The final will, surprisingly, be the first between the Uniteds of Manchester and Newcastle though they have made 26 pre-

turning up, then? Definitely. Just remember, Arsenal were unbeaten in 21 matches, and had won four and drawn two of their previous six games with Manchester United, when they arrived at Villa Park on Wednesday.

Alan Shearer v Jaap Stam, Dietmar Hamann v Roy Keane, Andy Cole v his old team, Ruud Gullit v Alex Ferguson. It could be a contest to savour, but we will be very, very lucky if the drama matches the night Giggs jiggled at the Villa.

## Poles are on the brink

### POLAND

THE POLISH football association (PZPN) said yesterday it would continue to defy Fifa's demand to name a date for a leadership election - and would not hold one for at least three months.

The PZPN has been playing a dangerous bluffing game with world football's governing body by ignoring an 8 April deadline for calling an election, despite warnings that Poland could be expelled from the 2000 European Championship.

Poland's sports minister, Jacek Dembski, has accused the PZPN of incompetence and corruption, and recently threatened to resign if new leaders were not elected by early August.

The PZPN missed Fifa's deadline because of what it called "procedural reasons". Its spokesman, Tomasz Jagodzinski, said: "We sent them a detailed explanation of why our board will meet on 29 April, it will choose a date for the election. I don't think it will be sooner than three months."

### FOOTBALL AROUND THE WORLD

#### EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

Marian Dzurovici, the autocratic long-time leader of the PZPN, has refused to either bring the election forward from next year or to step down as promised.

#### BULGARIA

POLAND MAY not be the only country that has been playing a dangerous bluffing game with world football's governing body by ignoring an 8 April deadline for calling an election, despite warnings that Poland could be expelled from the 2000 European Championship.

The PZPN has allegedly failed to act over a doping case and allowed unlicensed clubs to play in the league. The BFU president, Ivan Slavkov,

has warned that if the licence was revoked Bulgaria could be excluded from international competition.

The State Committee for youth, physical education and sports, the equivalent of a sports ministry, accused the BFU management of failing to take action in a doping case ahead of last year's World Cup finals. The midfielder Iliya Gruiev, who tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid last April, was dropped from the country's World Cup squad but was not otherwise punished.

The other allegation concerned Gruiev's club, Nefochimik Burgas, who apparently lack an approved professional licence.

#### GERMANY

JENS LEHMANN, Borussia Dortmund's German international goalkeeper, was yesterday given a three-match ban by the disciplinary commission of the German Football Union (DFB).

The DFB has allegedly failed to act over a doping case and allowed unlicensed clubs to play in the league. The BFU president, Ivan Slavkov,

ZINEDINE ZIDANE is prepared to walk out on Juventus at the end of the year. The French playmaker admitted yesterday that he is not happy in Turin and wants to move to Spain.

"I want to play in Spain. I don't know when but one day I will," Zidane said. "My wife is Spanish, we have Spanish friends and I want to move there. I have never hidden my problems about the life here in Turin. I will finish this season and then see."

Zidane is under contract

with Juventus until 2004 but friends of the player say there is no way he will remain with the Italian side for another four years.

Even if Juventus beat Manchester United in the semi-final of the European Cup on Wednesday and then go on to win the title, Zidane says it will not change his mind about his future.

"Juventus have shown that they can win the big matches but my wife, my family and my lifestyle count more than my job," he said.

Zidane is believed to be also

unhappy with the tactics used by the Juve new coach, Carlo Ancelotti.

Graham Soumous looks likely to be another on his way at the end of the season - but his departure as Benfica coach will be against his will. Reports yesterday indicated that the former Real Madrid coach, Jupp Heynckes, will replace Soumous next season.

The press and many Benfica fans have fiercely criticised Soumous for what are seen as British-style tactics. After Benfica lost a home game against Boavista last month, many of the 80,000 fans at the Stadium of Light waved white handkerchiefs as a sign of farewell. With seven League games left to play, Benfica are six points behind the Portuguese League leaders, Porto.

England are among the eight seeded nations in this summer's 60-strong Intertoto Cup. The draw, made yesterday, offers a relatively easy passage for a major club to reach the Uefa Cup by the "back entrance".

England's top-seeded club would face the winner of a series of matches involving teams from Wales, Malta, Finland or Estonia to enter the "semi-final" round of 12 chasing the three places on offer. Aston Villa are one of several clubs to express an interest.

## Zidane ready to leave Juventus

### NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

#### BY RUPERT METCALF

JUST TWO more wins from their remaining five Nationwide Conference fixtures will secure the championship for Cheltenham Town and guarantee promotion to the Football League.

While Cheltenham were beaten by Kingstone 1-0 at home on Tuesday, thanks to Neil Grayson's first-half penalty, their title rivals Rushden & Diamonds were losing 2-1 to Yeovil Town at Nine Park. Warren Patmore and Dave Piper gave the visitors a 2-0 interval

lead. Rushden's only reply was a late goal from Colin West.

That was a crucial victory for Yeovil, because it maintained their outside chance of snatching the title should Cheltenham suffer a collapse in form. Hayes are also fringe contenders. Following their 1-0 home win over Huddersfield Town on Tuesday, Cheltenham entertain their

Gloucestershire rivals Forest Green Rovers next Tuesday and then they have another home game against Yeovil two days later. Six points will mean a party at Whaddon Road that could keep half the county awake. Two defeats though, will mean Yeovil, Rushden and Hayes who are at home to Cheltenham tomorrow week will begin to fancy their chances again.

In tomorrow's FA Umbro Trophy semi-final second leg at

Whaddon Road, Cheltenham beat Kingstone for the third time in eight days. The first leg at Kingsmeadow last weekend was drawn 2-2.

The other second leg takes place on Sunday lunchtime at The Lawn, Nailsworth, where Forest Green will be hoping to make sure that at least one Gloucestershire club reaches the final on 15 May. They drew 1-1 in the first leg away to the Ryman League outfit, St Albans City, last Saturday.

## Cheltenham closing in on championship

Gloucestershire rivals Forest Green Rovers next Tuesday and then they have another

Kettering Town occupy second place in the table, five points behind the Robins, with only two games left to play.

Hayes are in third place, behind Kettering on goal difference, and they have three remaining fixtures.

Rushden are fourth, two points further adrift with four to play, while fifth-placed Yeovil are four points behind Rushden with six matches left.

Cheltenham entertain their

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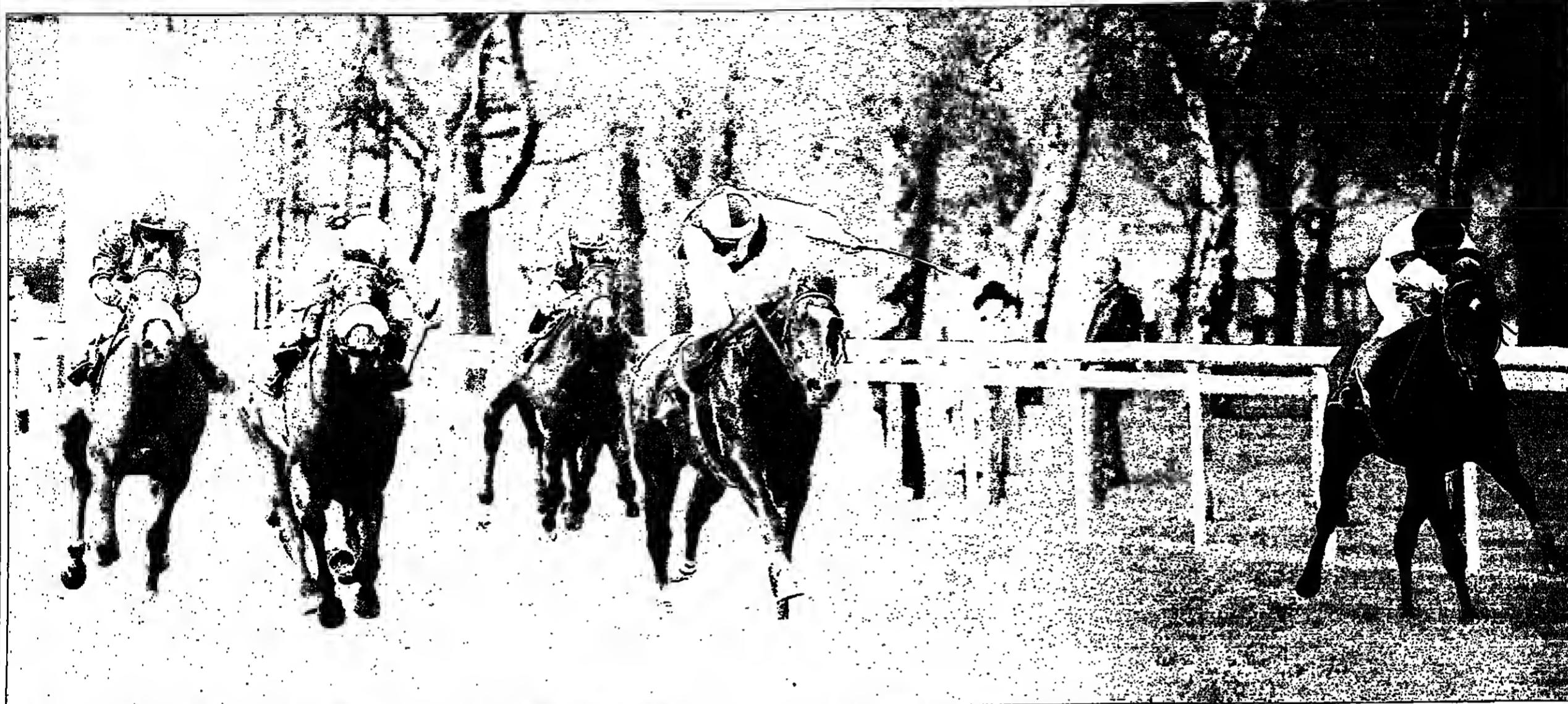
## SPORT

THE GLORY OF GIGGS P26 SHARRON DAVIES SHOWS THE WAY P22



COMMENT

## Dreams and betting slips discarded as Guineas favourite flops



Mujahid (blue silks, third right), the long-time favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, struggles home fifth in yesterday's Craven Stakes at Newmarket, won by Crampton Admiral (second left) Racing, pages 24, 25; Robert Hallam

## United wait on Giggs injury

MANCHESTER UNITED could pay a hefty price for their FA Cup victory over Arsenal on Wednesday night.

Top of the list of walking wounded are Ryan Giggs and Peter Schmeichel. Giggs, who suffered an ankle strain in a challenge with Lee Dixon near the end of the gripping encounter, left Villa Park on crutches, although he should be fit for next Wednesday's European Cup semi-final second leg against Juventus in Turin.

Schmeichel, who made a series of fine saves including a penalty save from Dennis Bergkamp, suffered a groin injury and had to play on be-

FOOTBALL  
BY MARK PIERSON

cause United had used up their three substitutes. The Dane is likely to sit out tomorrow's game against Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford in the hope of being fit to face Juventus.

To add to Ferguson's worries, Jesper Blomqvist came off complaining of a foot problem, while Phil Neville may well be pressed into action on the left wing against Wednesday to-morrow.

Henning Berg is already out with ankle ligament trouble and United will also have to do

without their captain Roy Keane against Aston Villa on 1 May after he picked up a one-match ban for his sending off on Wednesday night.

Keane is firm in his belief that United's squad will be large enough to cope.

"We've used the squad a lot this season, but you really saw it's worth against Arsenal," he said. "After extra-time on Sunday and with the other games coming up, the gaffer brought other players in and they've done brilliantly. That bit of freshness helps and there are still people who can come in." On the plus side, Andy Cole will return from the ankle injury which left him on the

sidelines against Arsenal. Denis Irwin, who was confined to the bench on Wednesday with his knee problem, is likely to play, while Dwight Yorke is still fresh.

Ferguson will take a head count of who is available this morning, and be said yesterday: "The semi-final was about getting through no matter what because of the importance of the game. I'll now have to do a lot of thinking about my team for Saturday."

Although United's win over Arsenal was their first in two years, Keane does not think the result will have any bearing on the Premiership title race.

"I'm not into all that type of

thing just because we've won this game," he said. "We have an important game on Saturday and that's all I'm thinking about. I can't answer that question as to whether there's any psychological advantage or not."

"But I really don't think so - we won this game and forgot everything else. It's got us through to the FA Cup final and that's all."

The Football League is set to follow rugby union's example and experiment with the 10-yard rule for offences in next year's Auto Windscreens Shield.

After a successful trial in Jersey, match officials will be

instructed to advance a free-kick by 10 yards if a player continues to show dissent, fails to retreat 10 yards, or delays the kick. The League is planning to use the new rule in next year's knock-out competition for Second and Third Division clubs.

The former World Cup referee, Pat Partridge, believes the new law could be a valuable weapon for match officials in the face of growing dissent problems on the pitch.

"It is something which would have been ideal in my day as a referee," Partridge added. "It would save a lot of problems in this day and age. It is a system which has worked in rugby successfully."

Apparently, from the way the experiment has gone in Jersey, it has done tremendously well," Partridge said. "It is a positive move by the League if they go ahead with it."

"People say it is only Jersey but it had to be tested in competition. It has proved successful so let's give it a whirl."

Partridge said the new rule should have been a feature of the elite game when he was officiating.

"It is something which would have been ideal in my day as a referee," Partridge added. "It would save a lot of problems in this day and age. It is a system which has worked in rugby successfully."

It was announced yesterday that no tickets will be sold on the day for this year's Auto Windscreens Shield final, between Wigan and Millwall on Sunday.

Murali is still top of Red Rose wish list

## CRICKET

LANCASHIRE WANT Muttiah Muralitharan rather than Glenn McGrath as their overseas player for 2000. The controversial Sri Lankan spinner will play a handful of games for the Old Trafford side this season after the World Cup and they want him to return for a full term next year.

The club are monitoring the McGrath situation now the Australian fast bowler has announced he is available for county cricket. Lancashire spokesman Dave Edmundson said: "Like all other counties we have been circulated about McGrath, but we have not discussed him and we have not made an approach."

Durham were again frustrated by the weather as they progressed from 32 for 1 to 153 for 4 to lead Worcestershire by a single run after three miserable days at Chester-le-Street. Half-centuries by Jon Lewis and John Morris put the hosts in a dominant position but rain restricted the day's play to 38 overs.

Rival captains Wasim Akram and Mohammad Azharuddin find themselves under unwanted pressure as India and Pakistan prepare for the Champions Cup final in Sharjah today.

While Akram had re-newed charges of match-fixing thrown at him by a former team-mate, there are growing calls for Azharuddin to be replaced as India's World Cup captain by Ajay Jadeja.

The former Pakistani wicketkeeper Rashid Latif accused Akram and his team of throwing Monday's match against England, saying the boys were "up to their old tricks again".

"The guys are once again making fools of the public," Latif said after Pakistan crashed to a shocking 62-run defeat, England's only success in the three-nation tournament. He added that he felt "something fishy" had started again in the team.

Akram, at the centre of an ongoing judiciary inquiry on betting and match-fixing at home, dismissed Latif's claims.

"Latif is a frustrated character who cannot bear to see the Pakistani team do well," Akram said. "It seems we have to win every game we play to keep the allegations at bay. As a captain, I know my team is honest and above board."

More reports, scoreboard, page 25

## Pinto on the defensive over drug allegations

ATHLETICS  
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ANTONIO PINTO, Portugal's European 10,000 metres champion, yesterday answered allegations of doping abuse levelled at him by Britain's top distance runner, Jon Brown. Speaking during the build-up to Sunday's London Marathon, which both men will race, Pinto dismissed Brown's claim made after his European victory in Budapest, that he had illegally enhanced his performance by taking the blood booster Erythropoietin (EPO).

Pinto, who set new personal bests for 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000m last year at the age of 32, as well as finishing third in the London Marathon, said that he had beaten Brown "fair and square" in Budapest.

"Two weeks later, he beat me fair and square in Brussels, when he set a British 10,000m record. Do I need to say anything else?"

"I have been running for more than 15 years. When I was 20 I reached the final at the Seoul Olympics and I have performed at every major championship since. Jon Brown - I only heard of him two years ago."

Brown has repeatedly voiced his opinion over the last year that many performances in distance running have been achieved through the illegal use of EPO.

After the European Championship trials in Birmingham last summer, he pointed an accusing finger at European nations with a traditional in-

view that EPO was as big a factor in marathon running today as it has been in professional cycling.

Pinto replied: "I have no idea. Until someone is caught and an offence is proven you cannot say. Let Jon Brown say what he wants. Until I know I cannot comment."

Pinto is strongly in favour of introducing blood testing into the sport. "I think it would be great," he said, "because it would put everyone on the same level. In cycling they are already doing it. I hope all sports will eventually do the same."

Alan Storey, general manager of the London Marathon, believes that blood testing cannot be introduced without the active support of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, particularly over the question of setting medical parameters.

"Most people in the sport would like to see all the changes necessary to make sure everyone is competing on a level playing field," Storey said. "But even if we could take blood samples, we would still need to employ medical expertise to decide what those samples meant and what the levels should be. It would not be a cheap operation and it is simply beyond the capabilities of a set of marathon organisers."

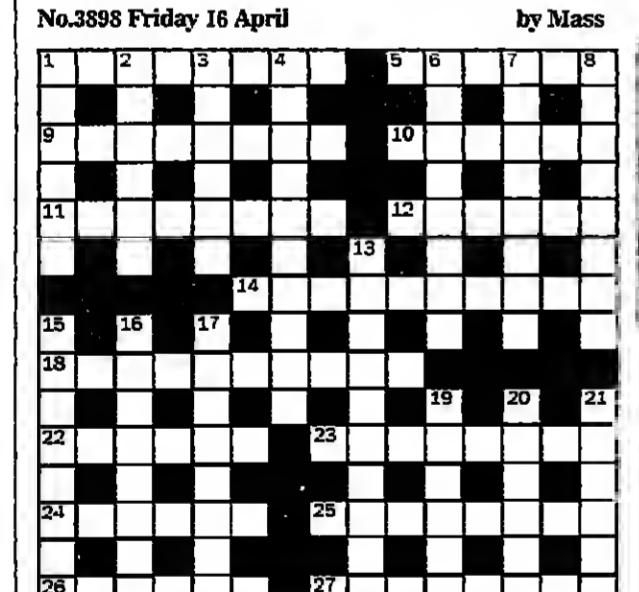
"This is something that has to be initiated by the IAAF, although they may be encouraged privately and publicly by national federations."



Allsport/Empics

## THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No.3898 Friday 16 April by Mass



ACROSS  
1 Apparently BA's defensive position? (4)  
5 Pouch on Border Chieftain (6)  
9 Dessert supplied to roomer in guest-house (8)  
10 Wretched, docked, the Spanish horse (6)  
12 Brood about crack - and desist (4,2)  
14 Clown's large heavy footwear (10)  
18 Dangers at sea, violent rolls when about stern of Arg (10)  
22 Alien, one with intelligence, drifting around in void (6)  
23 Calling for a change. Hants - so I bow over (8)

DOWN  
1 Hour on dusky river (6)  
2 Revelled, convinced the boat's come in (6)  
3 Clement's soft-hearted (6)  
4 Mad US colonel, Republican adviser (10)  
6 A party laboured point in choice of candidate, say (8)  
7 Dance from sailors, very good, in prospect (8)

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INSIDE  
Left  
Lead  
Obit  
Feature

## FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



# The team that vanished

In the towns and villages of rural Wales, a stranger stands out like, well, a French-speaking West African rugby player in a Day-Glo tracksuit. So how did 12 players from the Ivory Coast melt into the mists of the Black Mountains?

**A**t the Pets in Need charity shop in Llandovery high street, a couple of homemade posters have been Blu-Tacked to the window. Both are forlorn appeals for the public's help. "Jack Russell terrier called Bron lost at Myddfai. Children grieving, £100 reward," reads one. The other, scrawled in fading green marker pen, seeks the return of a mislaid teddy bear: "Grubby grey towelling. Four inches tall. Wearing a black-and-white bow-tie."

But dogs and cuddly toys are not the only things to have mysteriously gone AWOL in Llandovery of late. Last week, the small south Wales town misplaced 12 members of the Ivory Coast rugby team who were taking part in the under-19 world championships. Due to board a flight home from Gatwick to Abidjan last Thursday, half the squad decided to extend their Welsh sojourn indefinitely, vanishing from the local college which served as their base. The Home Office issued a statement saying all 12 had overstayed their visas and could now be arrested and deported.

But that was a week ago, and despite a few close calls, the authorities remain one step behind. On Saturday, a sharp-eyed motorist spotted two black men hitch-hiking along a road near Lustleigh in Devon. In their identical tracksuits with "Ivory Coast" emblazoned on the top, they seemed to fit the description of the suspects. But by the time the police flooded the area with officers, the men had disappeared. Today, the Dyfed Dozen are still very much at large.

Not that you'd know Llandovery was the nerve-centre of a massive immigration operation when you first arrive at the sleepy backwater which stands at the foot of the Black Mountains. There are no choppers circling the River Towy. There are no snarling tracker dogs clutching tracksuits between their drooling fangs. Not even a police chief in mirrored sunglasses barking orders. On a wet weekday lunchtime, the only people on the streets are morose schoolboys hanging round the telephone boxes and a pair of walkers in cagoules who are cheerfully photographing the cenotaph.

In theory, a dozen muscular, French-speaking 18-year-old Africans in electric-blue sports-wear should not be too hard to track down in a town with no black residents. But down at the

pebble-dashed police station, Sergeant Huw Jenkins admits the Dyfed-Powys force has yet to make any real breakthrough.

"We haven't conducted any house-to-house searches, but we have circulated all the relevant details to surrounding forces," says Sergeant Jenkins, breaking off from brewing a pot of tea. "I was very surprised when they just disappeared but there's not a lot we can do really. I can't imagine they're still in Llandovery. If they were, we'd certainly have apprehended them by now. They'd stand out like a sore thumb round here."

His self-belief is slightly undermined by a bar chart on the wall behind him which shows the station's crime detection figures to be a modest 56.7 per cent. Perhaps the Dyfed-Powys force should have apprehended the danger signs. Last year, four members of an Ivory Coast rugby team absconded when they were playing a tournament in France and have yet to be found.

In the 40 years since it gained its independence from France, the Ivory Coast has been the most stable country in West Africa. Unlike

BY RICHARD MCCLURE

its neighbours Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia, it has never suffered a military coup, military rule or civil war. Even so, beneath the mask of democracy a sense of helplessness prevails, particularly among the numerous unemployed young men - 60 per cent are out of work - and many have turned to drugs and alcohol to pass their time.

According to Unicef, 140,000 children now live

700,000 refugees who have crossed the border to flee civil war in Liberia.

So great is the impulse to escape the poverty and corruption that over the past few years, thousands have stowed away on ships out of the port of Abidjan. In 1997, four Ivorians suffocated or starved after hiding away on cargo vessels bound for the UK, last year, a Danish captain admitted manacled a teenage stowaway and throwing him overboard to certain death (the captain was imprisoned for 10 months for maltreatment). For those who do make it to Europe, the chances of asylum are slight and Interpol suspect that organised networks of friends and relatives keep them from being discovered.

In Llandovery's wind-lashed streets, there is no shortage of amateur detectives willing to share their theories about the team's whereabouts. Most favour the official view that the Africans have forsaken the town for the metropolitan anonymity of London or Merthyr Tydfil. But others prefer to think they've fallen for the charms of the Brecon Beacons.

"They were lovely, lovely lads," says Pamela

Wheal, warming herself in front of an electric fire at her charity shop. "Very polite, well-behaved fellows they were. Put our rugby lads to shame. They came in here quite a few times looking at shoes and shirts. They even bought some old Welsh bonnets - they kept on saying 'chapeaux, chapeaux'. If you ask me, they've loved being in Wales so much that they just wanted to stay on for a holiday."

Over at the Heritage centre, tourist officer Joan Snaith pauses from her paperwork to confide a piece of evidence: "The day they disappeared, one of them came in here with a bongo drum he was trying to sell," she whispers. "I got

the distinct impression he was trying to raise some money. Bongo drums aren't really our thing here, so I told him to try the craft centre across the road."

Slowly, the puzzle is being pieced together. While some of the team have boot-footed it to Devon, others have obviously gone to ground nearby, disguised in Welsh national dress and with just enough local currency to keep going until the search eases off. But where would they lie low? No clues can be gleaned from the surly shop assistant in the local Costcutters store who claims not to have noticed any furtive bulk buying. The Mayflower Chinese takeaway reports no suspiciously large deliveries to remote barns.

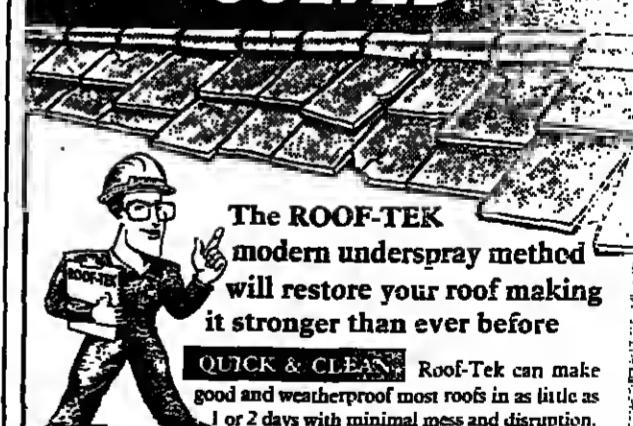
At the Erwion Caravan Park on the edge of town, the wizened proprietor, Cyril Rees, hasn't rented any more caravans than usual for the time of year. "They come play rugby at the stadium, I did. Very good, too, but they haven't been here, son," he says, scratching his head in recollection. "We did have some black people last year, though. Can't remember where they were from, but it must have been very far away because they were really black. If you're looking for the rugby boys, you could try the cave, though. That would be a smashing place to hide out."

The cave. But of course. Along with the Hamster Museum's collection of prize-winning rodents, Twm Sion Cati's Cave is renowned as Llandovery's premier attraction. A quick flick through the tourist brochure - "the cave hideout of outlaw leader Twm Sion Cati, Wales's 16th-century Robin Hood" - confirms its status as the ideal bolt-hole for bandits, hermits and other misanthropes.

Yet half an hour spent rooting round the gloomy cavern fails to unearth any clues. There are no studded boot prints or discarded jock straps on the muddy floor. The air hangs heavy with the pungent odour of damp bracken. Night is falling. It is time to concede defeat. The trail has gone stone cold.

Surprisingly, the players' continued evasion is greeted with some pride back at The Greyhound, the local rugby pub. "They're just down the coast from Rwanda, aren't they?" suggests one of the locals, keeping an eye on Sky Sports. "It can't be too easy for them over there. You can't blame them for wanting a better life. They were a nice bunch of blokes. Enjoyed a few drinks with us - nothing too rowdy. Good luck to them."

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**MUSIC**

## Monsanto sues

Sir: Dan Verakis of Monsanto claims that, with regard to Monsanto's test sites in Britain, "only people who break the law will face action" (letter, 15 April).

This is far from being the case; no criminal prosecution has ever been taken against myself and four other women who removed GM plants from a Monsanto site last July. Rather than the lawfulness of our act of digging being considered by a jury, the legal action which we and other Genetix Snowball supporters are facing is in the form of a civil action for an injunction from Monsanto.

This lawsuit has been described as a "Slapp" - a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. Slapps, commonly used by corporations in the USA, are an attempt to silence protesters and potential protesters by suing them for defamation, injury or conspiracy, thus presenting citizens with a "price" for speaking out politically.

For a corporation which can afford to pursue injunctions this is a strategy which they believe to be more effective at silencing opponents than taking them to court and trying the lawfulness of the actual actions.

MELANIE JARMAN  
Genetix Snowball  
Manchester

Sir: I am touched by Monsanto's bigheartedness (letter, 15 April) in carrying out their "duty" to ensure that everyone who receives the Genetix Snowball handbook receives a copy of any relevant court order. How kind - we can have delivered to us, in our own homes, our very own injunction telling us that we may be sent to prison for up to two years for even setting foot on Monsanto's property.

And yet there is part of me which suspects that Monsanto's motives are not entirely altruistic. Monsanto has a long history of using strongarm legal tactics, and Genetix Snowball is simply the latest target.

The truth is that Monsanto is running scared from the massive opposition in Europe to their genetically modified products. They expected us to roll over, as the Americans did, and we refused to do so.

By the way, I've got a Genetix Snowball handbook, and very interesting it is too.

ANDREA NEEDHAM  
London E2

## A Serb baffled

Sir: In reply to Anthony Arblaster (letter, 10 April), my partner is Serbian, and she abhors Milosevic and all his works and is appalled by the plight of the Kosovar refugees.

However, she is also appalled by the demonising of all Serbs, as if each Serb was a Milosevic clone. She is distressed by the bombing of her own country, which has predictably driven even opponents of Milosevic to support him. She is incredulous that Nato thought that bombing (preceded by the withdrawal of OSCE observers) would prompt extreme nationalists to shout, "I give up!" rather than accelerate their ethnic cleansing. She is baffled by the West's support for the KLA, a terrorist organisation which has killed many Serb civilians.

And she is disgusted by critics who forget the ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Serbs from the Krajina region of Croatia. (Her aunt died on that trek.)

Apparently ethnic cleansing is morally OK and invisible in the media if it is carried out by a friendly state, but wicked when it is carried out by an enemy.

I endorse every one of these points.

DAVID WELLS  
Beckenham, Kent

Sir: Graham Perkins states that the Croats "fought a brilliant six-day campaign to retake the occupied lands of the Krajina" (letter, 14 April). Would he describe the ethnic Albanians as



Billinggate No 5: a porter takes time out after barrowing fish from the refrigerated vans to the stall-holders

Kalpesh Lathigra

"occupying" Kosovo? The Croats ethnically cleansed Krajina of about 200,000 Serbs whilst US aircraft bombed Serb air defences. There was no outcry for air strikes against Tuđman's fascist campaign.

The reason Serbs were fighting in the first place was because Croatia insisted Krajina become part of an "independent" Croatia using the borders created by Pavelić and Hitler in 1941. If Mr Perkins researches the history of that era he may come to realise why no Serb wants to live in a fascist Croatia ever again.

HUGH W GLEAVES  
London N10

Sir: Is the British government creeping towards a ground war in Kosovo? In this year falls the hundredth anniversary of the commencement of the Anglo-Boer war in South Africa. The cause of that war was different but is the effect the same?

At the end of the last century Britain, the superpower of the day, thought it could win a quick war against the Boer republics. In fact it took 250,000 troops, marshalling resources from across the Empire and three long years to subdue (not defeat) a rag-tag army of 20,000 farmers. But the real tragedy was that it also took the lives of an estimated 20,000 Boer women and children and the deliberate destruction of property, farms and homes.

FRANCIS HAY  
Banstead, Surrey

Sir: Mr Milosevic has achieved his aim of ethnic cleansing. Let us accept it and stop the bombing. The money wasted on fighting the war would be better invested in a "Marshall plan" for Albania.

Mrs UTE LANG  
Longfield, Kent

Sir: Many things must be held to be disputable. One thing, however, is not, and that is that contamination of the land by long-term radioactive materials is wholly unacceptable. Any use of

such materials ought to be treated as a war crime. Nato should publicly pledge and substantiate that depleted uranium has not been and will not be employed in munitions.

MIKE TOPE  
West Molesey, Surrey

Sir: In answer to David Aaronovitch ("Why do these decent folk find it so difficult to support the war?", 1 April), let's bomb Israel for the Palestinians, let's bomb China for the Taiwanese, let's bomb North Korea for the South Koreans... we did. Let's bomb Indonesia for the trade unionists and others, let's bomb Chile for the Santiago stadium affair, let's bomb Argentina for the disappeared, let's bomb Turkey for the Kurds, etcetera. Let's just use all the bombs we have and bomb everyone. After all, we are not all guilty?

KEVIN STEWART  
London W1

Sir: Steven Norris says truckers are right to protest over rises in excise duty and fuel tax (Right of Reply, 15 April). A report by the Energy Efficiency Best Practice

Programme indicates that only 30 per cent of commercial fleet managers know how much they spend on fuel. Only 10 per cent of drivers have been trained in fuel-efficient driving, and fewer than 30 per cent use improved maintenance to reduce consumption. Instead of causing havoc for road users, hauliers should look at efficiency within their own operations and help to save the environment and save themselves money.

SEB BELOE  
Sustainability  
London W8

Sir: Betty Perry thinks it is "acceptable to make some charge for an education which

## Threats to Turkey

Sir: Your leading article "If Turkey is to join the EU it must stop abusing the Kurds" (12 April) is an embodiment of double standards.

You urge the Western powers to give an ultimatum to Turkey to "treat its Kurdish minority decently", and you associate that minority with the PKK, one of the most blood-thirsty terrorist organisations in the world. This is tantamount to associating the Catholic minority in Ulster with "Real IRA". You also add the threat that, if Turkey does not abide by this "ultimatum", it should not be considered for EU membership.

Undoubtedly Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin, as, indeed, other citizens, deserve to have all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution to all citizens, under normal circumstances. But there is an emergency in Turkey, where a ruthless, sanguinary and secessionist organisation is striving to dismember the country.

## IN BRIEF

enables higher income earning" (letter, 8 April). Not all university courses give access to well-paid jobs. What of those who study music, fine art or theology? Certainly those who enjoy high incomes as a direct result of their education should contribute something in return - and they already do through paying higher taxes.

JUSTIN BRETT  
Giltown, Monmouthshire

Sir: I commend David Aaronovitch for his thoughtful and balanced article (Comment, 15 April) and thank him for the support for me personally that he expressed in it. I would like to take this opportunity to state that, contrary to what might be inferred from a quotation in his

Turkey is merely doing its utmost to preserve its integrity, security and independence, which any sovereign state has a right to do.

I am hopeful that the general election in Turkey on 18 April will result in the accession to power of a strong and benevolent government that will tackle all the problems of its Kurdish citizens within the boundaries of Turkey.

However, threatening Turkey with ultimatums and threats of forfeiture of EU membership is counter-productive and may lead to the West's losing a good ally. Besides, in view of the recent treatment accorded to Turkey by the EU, that organisation has lost all influence that it might have had over that state.

Professor S R SONYEL  
London W1

## Non-aligned

Sir: It was startling - and indeed entertaining - to see myself characterised by you as a member

of the hated boss class over the non-renewal of comedian Mark Steel's contract at *The Guardian* (Media, 13 April). I'm afraid some of your facts are wrong, however.

I did not offer Mark another six-month contract "as long as he never wrote for *The Independent* again". The truth is the opposite: I actually gave him explicit permission at the time to write what he told us would be a sports column for *The Independent*. (Whatever happened to that column?)

Nor did I tell him *The Guardian* was planning to realign itself politically alongside Blair. That would be silly.

You omitted to say that the demonstration at *The Guardian* on Monday appeared in fact to be organised by the Socialist Workers Party. We are not planning to align ourselves politically with them, either.

DAVID LEIGH  
Comment Editor  
*The Guardian*  
London EC1

## Call to oblivion

Sir: No doubt there are arguments against our joining European monetary union, but surely there must be stronger ones than John Barnett's claim that we would do better to emigrate Norway and its "more dynamic" economy (letter, 14 April).

More dynamic than Germany, Italy, France or Spain? So where are all these Norwegian cars, aircraft, agricultural products, clothing, cultural artefacts? In all my 80-odd years of life I don't remember ever buying anything from Norway, or coming across anything at all, except Ibsen.

So far as I am concerned, emigration to Norway, however dynamic, would mean economic oblivion, or at best irrelevance. This is not going to convince me, or anyone else, that we must keep out of Europe.

RON SONNET  
Southsea,  
Hampshire

## Age of consent

Sir: Your correspondents, arguing in favour of lowering the age of consent for male homosexuals, seem to assume that the purpose of age of consent laws is to define that age at which one receives the privilege of being able to have sexual intercourse (letters, 15 April).

On the contrary, their purpose is to define the age up to which children are entitled to receive protection from seduction by adults. On this basis one could just as well argue that the laws discriminate against teenage girls because the period of protection granted to them is shorter.

Any arbitrary cut-off chosen, whether 16 or 18, has to be balanced against the evils: restriction of freedom on the one hand and failure to protect on the other. It seems perfectly reasonable in setting such limits to take account of emotional and physical maturity and, therefore, there is nothing necessarily illogical or "unfair" in allowing that the period for which boys should be protected from seduction by homosexual males should be longer than that offered to protect females from being seduced by heterosexual males.

What this additional period should be would be better addressed by a rational consideration of the statistics regarding onset of puberty than emotive appeals in the name of an irrelevant "equality".

Professor STEPHEN SENN  
Departments of Epidemiology and  
Public Health and Statistical  
Science  
University College London

## Teachers' pay

Sir: I have followed the series of letters and articles in your paper on performance-related pay for teachers with a mixture of dismay and resignation. Why has nobody raised the simplest issue of all? To cross the threshold teachers have to commit themselves to three weeks of extra work in the year.

My wonderful staff, working in almost ideal conditions with small classes of eager, well-disciplined children and high levels of professional support in the classroom, are not putting themselves forward. Why?

I did not offer Mark another six-month contract "as long as he never wrote for *The Independent* again". The truth is the opposite: I actually gave him explicit permission at the time to write what he told us would be a sports column for *The Independent*. (Whatever happened to that column?)

They care deeply about their performance and their responsibilities and they agonise about their career prospects. But they won't apply, and it causes me real anger to see this kind of unfair exploitative pressure continuing under a government which should know better.

You omitted to say that the demonstration at *The Guardian* on Monday appeared in fact to be organised by the Socialist Workers Party. We are not planning to align ourselves politically with them, either.

JOHN PEASNALL  
Head (and only man)  
Rauceby School  
Lincolnshire

## Not the and Bye

## A short story about obsession, revenge and beer mats

PEOPLE OFTEN complain to me that novels are far too long these days. Not today they aren't! Here, for your reading comfort, is a COMPLETE modern novel called "The Beer Mat Lover" which is less than 1,000 words long.

"SOONER OR later you're going to have to make up your mind which one you like better - is it your wonderful collection of beer mats or is it me?"

That was the question that my wife fired at me one day about two years ago. People talk about men popping the question before they get married, but they never talk about the question that women pop after marriage has taken place, and that is the question. All men will recognise it. It is the wife gradually realising that there is something

else in a man's life apart from her and deciding to challenge it.

In your case it may be sports cars or antique guns. In my case, it's beer mats. All right, call it a silly hobby if you like, but it's no worse than collecting toy cars or theatre programmes, which plenty of grown-ups do. I once saw Dr Roy Strong, director of the Victoria & Albert as he then was, talking about the museum's collection of 16th-century watches on TV, and I remember thinking to myself - OK, it's old watches with you, mate, with me it's beer mats. But what's the big difference when it comes down to it?

In any case, beer mats teach you a lot about geography, and about advertising, and about... well, about the different ways in which people mop up beer stains in dif-

ferent countries. All right then, beer mats don't teach you anything, but George VI collected postage stamps and what did that ever teach him? I rest my case. In my case, my wife chose a startling strategy - she decided to pretend that I really had changed and had really got rid of my beer mats. She then moved on to the task of turning me into a new man.

"What you've got to do now is get in touch with your own feelings," she would say.

One day I had nothing better to do, so I did get in touch with my own feelings. It was a revelation. I had five main feelings: fear, insecurity, jealousy, love of beer mats and revenge. I thought I would deal with the feelings of revenge first, as they sounded more fun.

"I've been in touch with my feelings," I told her. "So what do I do now?"

"Examine them honestly and

deal with them openly," she said.

I examined my feelings of revenge and found that they centred mostly on a boy called Johnson who had bullied me at school. In the years when I was getting married and having children and collecting beer mats I hadn't thought about him much, but every now and then his image would float in front of me and I would feel rage and impotent fury well up, and I would have to breathe deeply till it went away. My first wife got to know the symptoms well. Whenever I started breathing audibly she would say: "Stop thinking about Johnson."

"I can't help it," I would say. "Now that I'm big enough to hit him back, I really want to do it." "He's probably rich and powerful by now and got a milder to stop you doing it, so don't bother."

That was the difference between my first wife and the second. My first wife told me to forget about Johnson. My second wife told me to examine my feelings of revenge and do something about them. That meant, search out Johnson and punch him. Of course, she didn't know she was encouraging me to do exactly that, but I felt sure she was right.

By an extraordinary coincidence, I bumped into an old school friend who still kept in touch with Johnson and told me where he was. While the heat of revenge was still on me, I went round to Johnson's office and demanded to see him.

"Yes?" said Johnson, looking up at me as I entered his office. He had gone grey and looked a little frail. I reckoned I could clear his desk and start punching him within five seconds. I just needed to taunt him a bit first.

"Remember me?" I said. "No," said Johnson. While wondering what to say next, my eye fell on his desk. I couldn't believe it. There was a beer mat lying there.

"My God!" I said. "You've got one of the early Thomson & Wootton Kent Brewery beer mats! I've never seen one in the flesh before!"

"I collect them a bit," said Johnson. "Are you interested?"

The upshot was that instead of punching him, I asked him home to dinner to look at my collection. He and my wife got on very well. In fact, they are now living together somewhere near Amersham in Berkshire. She probably thinks she can make something of him. But once Dr Mahabir is gone, he will be a bully, always a bully, I say.

MILES KINGSTON

One day I had nothing better to do so I got in touch with my feelings. It was a revelation

"Examine them honestly and

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## Aerial war demands a readiness to admit mistakes

AN AERIAL bombardment is a peculiar kind of conflict, fought as much on the television screen as in the theatre of war. The tragic, inadvertent bombing of a column of Kosovar Albanian refugees, therefore, is likely to have more impact on public support for the war than it would if British troops were committed on the ground.

As Tony Blair discovered in the bombing of Iraq, public support for firm action against tyrants may be wide, but it is not deep. There is a one-sidedness about Western technological superiority which requires force from the air to be deployed with utmost restraint: people are liable to become justifiably squeamish about television images of cities under a hail of missiles and of the "collateral" damage afterwards.

If British soldiers were fighting their way through the hills of Kosovo, with their uncanny resemblance to the British countryside, the attitude back home to casualties sustained by civilians in crossfire would be very different. But a just war from the air has to be fought so much more justly than one on the ground.

It was, therefore, unwise of the Pentagon to assert so quickly, and without any evidence, that the killing of the refugees was the work of the Serb armed forces. The correct posture would have been one of sorrow and a willingness to investigate. It is vitally important in fighting a limited war to avoid the gung-ho mentality which assumes that "our boys are always right".

The wider lesson of the tragedy on the road from Prizren to Djakovica is that it further underscores the difficulties inherent in trying from the air to eject an army of occupation. All the Serb tanks and soldiers in Kosovo cannot be identified and attacked from 16,000 feet, so the objective has to be to make life as intolerable for them as possible - while avoiding the deaths of significant numbers of civilians. It may be possible to "degrade the Serb killing machine" sufficiently from the air so that Slobodan Milosevic feels bound to pull out. But it will not be easy or quick and, if further tragic accidents are to be avoided, it will be harder and longer.

However, it may not be possible at all, in which case NATO troops will have to be sent in on the ground. It is understandable that ground forces have not been deployed so far - as a NATO spokesman said this week, even if they had been available, they would not have been sent in yet. But the fact that NATO leaders are holding back from arming the Kosovo Liberation Army, or from preparing for a ground invasion - or from preparing to do either - is a puzzling.

A ground war may turn out not to be necessary, but it should not be ruled out, and it would make more sense to make Milosevic realise that the threat is real.



## A strange procedure - but justice was done

WE ARE, as Amnesty International declared yesterday, "one major step closer to justice", with the Home Secretary's decision to allow extradition proceedings against General Pinochet to go ahead. One more "major step" closer to justice than is strictly necessary, in fact.

Jack Straw is, rightly, playing the part of Desk Sergeant Stickler to the hilt. This is one case that has to be done by the book, even if it does require Mr Straw to assert with a straight face that he is "satisfied that he took this decision with an open mind" and "has considered the matter entirely afresh". Just as American juries are told to disregard inadmissible evidence, Mr Straw told himself to ignore the fact that he had already given the go-ahead for extradition after the first, flawed ruling by the Law Lords.

All of which neatly illustrates the absurdity of ministers acting in a "quasi-judicial capacity". In this case in particular, there is nothing "quasi" about it. Extradition is an entirely judicial business, and the idea that politicians should be involved as a matter of procedure is long out of date.

That, however, is for another day. For now, it is enough that the new international law to bring torturers to justice is being followed in a manner that is safe from legal challenge. What matters is that if Mr Straw had been acting purely as a politician, he would have reached the same judgement. It is right that Pinochet should go to Spain to face trial, and the Conservatives who have popped up to say that the Chileans should deal with him are wrong.

The idea that a trial in Chile would help the process of national reconciliation on which the country is embarked in its post-Pinochet phase is unconvincing. Far better for him to be tried in Spain: then the pro-Pinochet half of Chile can blame the Spanish, while the anti-Pinochet half can give thanks that the old tyrant has finally been brought to book.

## The law and Ms Jones

IT IS a pity - although perhaps not for Fiona Jones, the MP - that there is not going to be a by-election in Newark. It promised an intriguing contest. With William Hague seemingly going nowhere and the Liberal Democrats starting a poor third, how would Newark's voters send the traditional message of insubordination to the Government? How would the pro-euro Tories fare? We shall never find out, because the Appeal Court has ruled that Ms Jones is not guilty of fraud in recording her electoral expenses.

The point on which she got off, however, merely confirms the need for reform of the law on election funding. The jury, it was held, had been misdirected on the distinction between spending to promote Ms Jones as an individual candidate and spending to promote the Labour Party. By the time of the next general election, the rules to regulate spending must catch up with the 20th century, if not the 21st.

# Not their natural stance, but Straw and Byers are doing the right thing



### STEVE RICHARDS

*Murdoch does not blame the Government for his failure to become the owner of Manchester United*

come might well have been different.

But the Law Lords provided the ammunition to reinforce ministerial instinct. Admittedly the Law Lords handed Straw much less ammunition in their second judgment, by sharply narrowing the scope of torture-related crimes for which the dictator could be charged. But Spain has supplied evidence of many more torture cases which had been allegedly committed after the new cut-off date of 1968.

The principle behind Straw's original decision to extradite was not challenged by the Law Lords' revised judgment.

Straw would have become embroiled in a huge political row had he reversed his earlier decision, even if he had attracted the fleeting congratulations of *The Sun* and Lady Thatcher. What is more, it is quite pos-

sible that Pinochet would still have faced trial in London, a situation more fraught with political tension than sending him off to Spain. In a tight corner Straw took the least turbulent option available to him.

Superficially the Murdoch case seems even more nightmarish, but it turned into a piece of cake for the Government. It has always been far too glib to suggest that when Murdoch does not blame the Government for his failure to become Manchester United's owner. Instead he is venting his ire on those at BSkyB who blew it. The relationship between Blair and Murdoch will endure, while the fans should be grateful that the Government blocked the bid.

In a Government as political as this one, ministerial reflections in advance of their decisions will have ranged widely. This is a Government that is progressive when it is popular to be so, daring only when it has to be. Jack Straw and Stephen Byers had to be daring, but they chose ways which would be the least unpopular.

No matter: both of them came to the right decisions. Torture is torture whether it took place before or after 1988. An empire's dominance of football and its coverage in the media was obviously anti-competitive, as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission declared.

Quite right, too, that two pragmatic, cautious politicians have given pause for thought both to a former dictator and to the most powerful media magnate in the world.

*The writer is political editor of the New Statesman*

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"This is a vindictive political act. He has placed his ambitions above his duties."*  
Baroness Thatcher, on Jack Straw's decision to extradite General Pinochet

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"No people do so much harm as those who go about doing good."*  
Mondell Creighton, former Bishop of London

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## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

*Comment on the sentencing of Anwar Ibrahim to six years in prison*

very top with Anwar losing out. Whatever the future development in this affair, Malaysia will not be the same again.

*Hong Kong Standard*

THE FUTURE of Anwar depends on the fate of a planned coalition of opposition parties being cobbled together to end the National Front's reign and oust Mahathir from office.

Anwar is counting on a victory of the coalition of opposition parties to propel him back to power. A win could result in his obtaining a pardon and being installed as PM. That scenario is anchored on the premise that everything is dandy with the coalition. It is not.

*Straits Times, Singapore*

IT IS impossible to know whether the young Malaysians Anwar courts will pass judgement in his favour at the next

*Bangkok Post, Thailand*

## PANDORA

THE SWORD of truth has been sheathed. Conservatives in Thanet South have chosen Mark MacGregor to win back the seat lost by the former "sleaze" minister Jonathan Aitken at the last election. MacGregor's curriculum vitae is formidable. At the moment he is busy co-ordinating the Tory campaign for this year's plethora of elections. In days gone by, his activities were even more futile. As chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, MacGregor oversaw an organisation whose members espoused decriminalising incest, legalising hard drugs and privatising the Royal Family, and which claimed that Harold Macmillan was a war criminal. MacGregor himself was one of several extreme Tories who campaigned against the Anglo-Irish agreement in 1986 and was at the forefront of rebuffing charges that the FCS had been involved in violence and vandalism at a university conference in Loughborough. All glamorous stuff, but in the end even Norman Tebbit thought the FCS too right-wing: he gave them a dose of their beloved capital punishment and chopped them off. Come back Jonathan, all is forgiven.

LIFE'S BITTER ironies. As Home Secretary Jack Straw sanctioned the extradition process against General Pinochet, a book about the corruption of justice in Chile was banned in Santiago. *The Black Book of Chilean Justice* managed only a day on the bookstands before Servando Jordan, a former president of the supreme court and with a starring role in the book, successfully moved a writ against it. The author, Alejandro Matos, has, as they say, left the building.

LAUNCHED THIS week was the Channel 5 website, complete with a cartoon not-so-lookalike of the presenter Melinda Messenger (pictured). Only trouble was, those eager to surf 5's waters had to rejig their software to get a picture. Sound familiar?

MEANWHILE, THE C5 supremo David Einstein has switched channels on his long-held belief that the BBC should be funded by subscription. Conveniently, for the man who wants to take over from John Birt as Director-General of the Beeb, his about-turn in favour of the licence fee was screened at a forum of BBC governors this week. Having

achieved this nice hit of PR, Einstein, it may be safe to assume, is confident of his chances - so confident, in fact, that some say he has even forgotten to put in his application form and is simply waiting for the phone to ring.

"WE ARE a grandmother," Congrats to Pandora reader Shirley Williams, who is now a granny. "The hardest part of the birth was keeping her out of the delivery room," quipped the feisty senior's son-in-law about the arrival of the sweet-natured baby Samuel Honey.

LAUNCHED THIS week, the sunnier-friendly business card by Forest, the smokers' pressure group, Wheezers everywhere can now ingratiate themselves with non-smoking establishments by leaving a card that reads: "To the manager: sorry, but I won't be recommending your business to my friends and colleagues because your ban on smoking gets right up my nose." Fiery stuff.

ONE MAN who will be pleased by Manchester United's epic FA Cup victory this week is the Welsh nationalist leader Dafydd Wigley. The Plaid Cymru politician has supported the Red Devils since his time at Manchester University in the Sixties. Any guilt that Dafydd may have about not supporting Wrexham or Swansea is at least partly erased by the fact that Ryan Giggs - who scored the killer goal against Arsenal - is Welsh.

WINNER OF Pandora's sancer of milk this lap is that ageing club kid James St James. He's written a spectacularly vitriolic book called *Disco Bloodbath*, published today by Sceptre, about the notorious Michael Alig night-club murder.

Brit interest will probably centre on St James's searing allegations about Peter Gatien, the flamboyant night-club proprietor who created the Limelight in London's Shaftesbury Avenue. For legal reasons we can't go into details here. But James does describe Alig, when he betrays Gatien by trying to frame him on racketeering charges, as "a grizzled old she-hag... bitter and lonely as a withered stick of rhubarb". Miao!

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

THE HOUSE of Lords earlier this week rejected the Government's Bill to lower the homosexual age of consent to 16, in parity with the age of consent for heterosexuals. My first response on hearing this tragically predictable news was that they should all quite simply grow up a bit.

Not homosexuals, of course, who will do so anyway, but the members of House of Lords, whose arguments on this occasion displayed a degree of fatuity and ignorance of the real world unrivalled by any school debating society in the land. If the arguments advanced in the House of Lords had no consequences, one would merely be amused by their unworldliness; as it is, it is deplorable that people's lives can be damaged by unelected eccentrics taking their idiotic prejudices for one last outing.

What exactly is the problem with this step? The opponents of the Bill argue that it sends "a wrong message" to the country, that it suggests that homosexual and heterosexual orientation are of equal value. I expect it does, and it is difficult to see why this would be such a bad thing. Of course, it is one's own

thing or the other or to do more than come to terms with what is there. **PHILIP HENSHER**  
They may be getting on but the idea that 16-year-old boys are innocent is extraordinary

sexual orientation were something that could be influenced by government legislation, a government might come to the view that it would prefer to encourage heterosexuality, as might prefer to encourage, say, cycling in the inner cities. But sexual orientation is not something susceptible to influence of this sort; hardly anyone ever has to make a decision between one

and another, or to do more than come to terms with what is there.

The crucial point about a legislation that treats different orientations as equal in value is that it encourages people to think of homosexuality and heterosexuality as equally deserving of respect. Anyone who defends a law which enshrines their conviction that certain classes of people - not just ways of life, but people - are inferior in value to others ought to pause for a moment. They are on the same side as the Ku Klux Klan.

A great deal of guff was spoken about the protection of our children and the rights of parents. Only yesterday, *The Daily Telegraph* printed a letter that ran, in total: "We have grandsons aged 13, 12, 9 and 7. I thank God on my knees for the present House of Lords." Oh, right, I mean, as if, when you are 16, the preferences of your grandfather are of the slightest interest to you. What if one of those grandsons is by now homosexual? What does he deserve more - a rule of law that protects his grandfather's right to bigotry and hatred, or one that has no interest in passing judgement on

the way of life he never had to choose? The wishes of parents and grandparents are of no importance in the end, and, even if they were, the law could do nothing at all to reinforce them. It is right for the law to tell parents that, at some point, the lives of their children become their own, and that is exactly what the age of consent legislation ought to do.

Some of the arguments advanced by the awful gang led by Lady Young, the voice of every taxi-driver in the country, were almost amusing in their lack of contact with reality. The conviction that 16 was far too young an age for sexual experience was upheld by almost every one of them. Well, I know they're getting on a bit, but the idea that 16-year-old boys are innocent in any way is extraordinary. Have these people never seen a class of 16-year-olds? Do they really suppose that the law has the slightest power to prevent them from doing to each other exactly what they want to do?

And it's right, really, that they should be allowed to. If no one were permitted to have a sexual relationship until they were mature enough to do so, most people would

have to wait a very long time. At some point, the law has to admit that people should have the freedom to behave as they want to. If it prefers to strike a pose - to say, as it did until a couple of years ago, that 20-year-old men must not have sex with each other - it will not achieve its aim; it will simply inculcate a wide-ranging contempt for the rule of law in a generation of people.

STEVE CONNOR

Columnist

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## The Lords take leave of reality



Philip Hensher  
They may be getting on but the idea that 16-year-old boys are innocent is extraordinary

have to wait a very long time. At some point, the law has to admit that people should have the freedom to behave as they want to. If it prefers to strike a pose - to say, as it did until a couple of years ago, that 20-year-old men must not have sex with each other - it will not achieve its aim; it will simply inculcate a wide-ranging contempt for the rule of law in a generation of people.

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And it's right, really, that they should be allowed to. If no one were permitted to have a sexual relationship until they were mature enough to do so, most people would

## It is time to rethink the aims of this savage war



Denis Healey  
In one sense Nato has become a biological monstrosity - an organ without a function

and has led to more savage attacks on the people of Kosovo. Moreover, it has led to the death of innocent civilians in Belgrade and elsewhere - notably on a road convoy of Kosovar Albanian refugees this week.

There is growing disagreement in Washington over the operation's aims and targets; above all, there is no apparent exit strategy.

The best and now the only hope is that Nato may accept the need to engage with Russia in a major attempt to get a peaceful settlement of the Kosovo crisis, even if that means significant changes in Nato's present policy.

However, Nato's forthcoming summit meeting on 23 April may create new difficulties. It may publish a Membership Action Plan for Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Macedonia, Albania and Slovenia, which will be offered earlier membership provided that they modernise their entire armed forces in line with Nato - thus giving them priority over the Baltic States and former Soviet republics.

Moreover, it will open the possibility of Nato action beyond the existing treaty area, including central Asia. Nato has already carried out military exercises in Kazakhstan under American leadership. Nato is also requiring such countries to prepare more actively for participation in some type of a rapid reaction force.

America also wants the Summit to adopt a strategic concept that will include a new commitment to protect common interests and to act jointly against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

President Clinton has said that tomorrow's alliance must defend us against threats to our collective security from beyond Nato's borders, including the spread of weapons of mass destruction, ethnic violence, and regional conflict.

In theory this could open the

way to Nato intervention in the Middle East and in North Africa. This has alarmed some Nato leaders in Europe. The French Parliamentary Defence Committee has gone much further. In its recent report it declared that last year's American missile strikes on Afghanistan and the Sudan show that Washington was "thumbing its nose at international organisations".

It also made it clear that France would not join any American-led effort to deploy an anti-missile shield in Europe, saying that "it could give the impression that Nato, having lost its enemy to the East, is now looking for one in the South".

Moreover, it added, "installing

Petersburg could seriously damage relations with Russia".

In stressing the need for a strong European identity within Nato, the French report argued that this would allow Europe to mount peacekeeping missions alone, if Washington proved reluctant to act.

Once again Britain's determination to put first its relations with the United States is creating serious problems for its desire to appear at the heart of Europe.

It is high time that Britain used its position in Nato to seek changes in American policy - particularly with regard to Yugoslavia.

ning a future referendum. The forces ranged against us are considerable, their financial firepower is impressive, and their arguments, however wrong, are often well put. This will not be an easy fight.

My strong belief is that the Conservative Party can never win power as a euro-hostile party, because it will be a divided party and

reality

## Your future life signposted



STEVE CONNOR

*If drug companies sacrifice their rights it must mean something important is going on*

WE ARE about to enter a new era in medical science that will almost certainly bring about as profound a change in the way we live and die than anything we have witnessed as a result of 20th-century medicine. For a period that saw the discovery of antibiotics and the implementation of mass immunisation, leading to the near-elimination of many notorious childhood killers, that may appear an outlandish thing to say. Let me explain.

Yesterday, five world-renowned centres of biomedical excellence teamed up with 10 multinational drug companies to form an unprecedented alliance. The aim of the consortium is to discover the genetic "signposts" that could be used by doctors of the 21st century to predict a patient's future susceptibility to disease. Not only that, the signposts could be used to treat patients with tailor-made drugs, specifically designed to combat the disease in question and to prevent side-effects in those with a certain genetic constitution.

The signposts in question are technically known as SNPs, or single nucleotide polymorphisms. They represent the smallest change possible in a gene and, as such, the genetic difference between one person and another is effectively the result of the differences in their SNPs. For every 1,000 "letters" in the genetic alphabet or code of a human gene, there is typically one SNP. This means that two unrelated people have roughly a million SNPs to distinguish between them.

The SNPs are known as signposts because they can be strongly associated with a specific disease. They can indicate the inheritance of a conventional genetic disorder, such as cystic fibrosis or haemophilia, and more importantly they can act as a marker or test for other genes that confer a predisposition for more common illnesses, such as cancer, asthma and diabetes. If heart problems run in your family, there is almost certainly a group of as-yet-undiscovered SNPs that could be used to estimate your risk of suffering a heart attack.

In other words, a database of SNPs – a map of the genetic signposts – could tell doctors of the future what a person is likely to die



A scientist studies a series of DNA sequencing autoradiograms, or genetic fingerprints, through a magnifying glass

Geoff Tompkinson/Science Photo Library

of and what must be done to avert the disaster. All that is needed is to compare a patient's genetic profile against a set of known genetic signposts, and, hey presto, get a read-out to reveal not only what a person is likely to die of but at what age the disease will present itself.

This is not so futuristic as it may seem. Already there is a little-known genetic test that can predict whether a person is likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, and at what age this will most probably occur.

Drug companies have an obvious vested interest in the results of such research. But what makes the 15-strong consortium so unusual is that all parties have vowed that, whatever information they gather about these all-important signposts, it will be published straightforwardly and will be freely available to anyone who wants it. Because the data will be in the public domain, no one will be able to patent the genetic material and so there will be no restrictions on who can take advantage of the information.

Why is this so important for the rest of us? One clue comes from the fact that drug companies, which are notoriously secretive about research, seem prepared to join forces and publish information

openly. It is a mark of the importance they have attached to the huge potential benefits emanating from the international initiative to unravel the entire genetic map of man – the Human Genome Project. If drug companies are prepared to sacrifice their exclusive rights, it must mean something pretty earth-shattering is going on.

An immediate worry of the drug firms is that several smaller companies, which were specifically set up to be the first to discover the genetic signposts for disease, are going to find and patent the material, and so restrict their commercial exploitation. Several outfits, in the US and Europe, are known to be unravelling the genetic sequence of human genes as fast as they can in order to patent the information before anyone else. One such company, Genentech, in Paris, is said to have found and applied for patents on two genetic traits that indicate a predisposition to prostate cancer. It is offering intellectual rights on the patents for a sum said to lie somewhere between £30m and £50m.

The consortium, led by the Wellcome Trust, Britain's largest medical research charity, says it wants to identify about 300,000 genetic signposts, and to map the precise

whereabouts of about half of these on each of the 23 pairs of human chromosomes, over the next two years. This may seem a bold objective, but it in fact represents only 10 per cent of the total number of signposts that are believed to exist. It is, nevertheless, a far bolder attempt to unravel the genetic indicators of disease than anything else going on in the world.

The 10 drug companies have therefore deftly carried out a nice piece of anti-competitive work aimed at frustrating those smaller gene-sequencing operations, while basking in the glory of making everything they discover open and therefore unpatentable. They have realised that there is strong opposition to patenting human genes and have assumed, probably quite rightly, that the effort to place everything in the public domain will be applauded.

Indeed, one vociferous opponent of gene patenting – the Genetic Interest Group, representing families affected by inherited disorders – believes that any form of patenting on parts of the human body, including genes, will discourage rather than encourage research and development. "There are serious ethical and moral objections to

the notion that part of the human body could be patentable. Genes and DNA are natural parts of the human body," the group has ruled.

In fact, the "genes" that form part of a patent are not physically part of a body. They are merely bits of information that can be written down on paper. If someone can use this honest assessment of the future: "I think the way it will end up is like pregnancy testing. It will first of all be done only in research clinics. It'll then come into a doctor's office, and it'll then become a dipstick the chemist's."

In the longer term, the use to which the genetic signposts will be put raises far more serious ethical concerns than anything related to the question of patents. For instance, what will it mean for people to be told they are likely to develop an illness for which there is no cure?

Some ethicists argue that this sort of information is too dangerous for people to know, but what about third parties, such as insurance companies? You may not want to know you have a 91 per cent chance of developing Alzheimer's disease by the age of 68, but I bet the insurance company offering to take out a post-retirement policy against long-term care would like to know.

Yesterday's announcement, made in the dying embers of the 20th century, has set the scene for what we are to expect in the years to come. When asked where the technology is likely to end up, Michael Morgan, the head of the Wellcome Trust's initiative to unravel the human genome, gave this

honest assessment of the future: "I think the way it will end up is like pregnancy testing. It will first of all be done only in research clinics. It'll then come into a doctor's office, and it'll then become a dipstick the chemist's."

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## RIGHT OF REPLY

AILSA OGILVIE



A director of the charity Scope responds to a recent article by Sue Arnold

SUE ARNOLD'S light-hearted dig at charity fundraising ("Does charity begin at the Great Wall of China?", Weekend Review, 10 April 1999) pinpoints the fact that these days it takes a lot more than pure altruism to encourage people to get involved with raising money.

She's right. We don't live in a "something for nothing" culture. The rising popularity of overseas charity fundraising events taps into something many want to get involved in. People like the challenge of getting fit to do tough treks and cycle rides.

But she is wrong to say that sponsoring someone to do such events is financing "what is basically a package holiday with optional excursions". In exchange for the chance to experience the challenge of a lifetime, participants must give a big commitment to help the charity, and significant sums of money have to be raised. Take the example of Scope. The charity raised more than £2m from its overseas events last year alone. This is a vital new source of income.

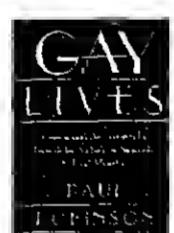
Of course, there are some participants who can afford to cover the required minimum sponsorship themselves, but the vast majority spend months fundraising in their local communities and raising awareness of what Scope does. This often leads to friends and family wanting to get involved in the future. It is common for much more than the minimum amount to be raised. I can assure your readers that these events are not holidays. Sue Arnold could take part in Scope's Grand Canyon Bike Away or white-water rafting on the Zambezi. This would give first-hand experience of the effort and commitment of people of all ages striving to raise money to fund the vital services we provide to people with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities.

## A pattern tie to bind gay authors

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES ARE, by their very nature, individual works. If, however, we look at the autobiographies of people who have in common something as crucially defining as homosexuality, we may be able to draw some general conclusions about sex and society.

Paul Robinson is a cultural historian rather than a literary critic, and although he subjects his 14 texts to close readings and is finely alert to their authors' literary as well as psychological strategies, his principal interest is in the way these books reflect the similarities and differences of homosexual experience, and in the influences exerted on the lives of their authors by history and nationality.

Six of his writers are British, three French, and five American. The oldest was born in 1840, the youngest in



## FRIDAY BOOK

**GAY LIVES: HOMOSEXUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY FROM JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS TO PAUL MONETTE**  
BY PAUL ROBINSON.  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS. £23.95

1947. Some of their accounts are dispiriting, others are heartening.

"When I began work on this book I had no hypothesis about what general story it might tell," Robinson writes. "And in the end no such story has emerged, or, if one exists, I have failed to detect it."

This may be true, but Robinson has nevertheless been able to trace some patterns. The British writers have a

fascination with the lower classes"; the French "tend to put their stories through a philosophical wringer"; the Americans are inclined to write "coming-out stories" that "invite comparison with the conversion narratives that figure so prominently in the Western cultural tradition".

He detects a concern with masculinity and effeminacy in all the stories, and discusses notions of "solidarity" – not merely the political solidarity that came out of the postwar liberation movement, but also the tribal loyalties referred to in the title of Christopher Isherwood's *Christopher and His Kind*.

Some of these books were like messages in bottles, unpublished during writers' lives but left for posterity. The most extreme case is JA Symonds, whose autobiography did not appear until 91 years after his death – an astonishing Victorian document to unleash upon the Eighties. While Symonds and Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson felt that their stories would be of interest and benefit to others of their kind, and perhaps to society at large, neither makes particularly cheering reading.

Similarly, Robinson's three Frenchmen are hardly role-models: André Gide escaping the confines of marriage to pursue Arab boys, Jean Genet abasing himself before assorted thugs, and Julien Green dividing his time between writing his pamphlet against the Catholics in France – which celebrates the Inquisition and attacks

modern Catholicism for its moral laxity – and squaddies cruising near the Trocadero".

As Robinson notes: "The history of gay autobiography in France confounds our naive expectation that the genre should move inexorably towards self-affirmation."

Robinson has arranged his material skillfully. For example, he discusses J.R. Ackerley's *My Father and Myself* in tandem with Quentin Crisp's *The Naked Civil Servant*. He notes that although the two books are "set in the same town at more or less the same time... the worlds Ackerley and Crisp inhabited and the lives they pursued seem so alien from one another as to constitute a virtually separate universes."

Two Americans, Jeb Alexander and Donald Vining, representing the Twenties and the Forties, also produce a piquant contrast. Alexander narrates "a descent into loneliness, despair and drunken inertia" in Washington, while Vining "moves" in the direction of ever greater assurance, contentment and activity" in New York.

Occasionally, such groupings for effect seem a little unfair. A distinctly uncharitable discussion of the waveringly bisexual Stephen Spender's *World Within World* is sandwiched between much friendlier analyses of the absolutely queer Isherwood's *Lions and Shadows* and *Christopher and His Kind*. Robinson correctly notes that *Lions and Shadows* is ingeniously contrived to be perceived differently by two different imagined audiences: the general public, which is properly heterosexual, and an audience of sympathetic conspirators, essentially homosexual, who will respond with recognition and pleasure to the author's carefully coded secret history.

However, he derives no such pleasure from Spender's book, which is more open about the author's homo-



Quentin Crisp: among the authors studied

Gavin Kent

## Kosova children appeal to Independent readers

Thousands of Kosova refugee children now face death from hunger, cold and disease. Most are in deep shock. Many have witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, cannot support this massive influx of refugees.

Your action will save children who have lost everything

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to expand our emergency centre in northern Albania to help thousands of refugees. Our team has been working with displaced Kosova families since this tragedy began. We are ready to provide food, medical aid and clothing to the confused and frightened children who arrive daily.

These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever.

Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a normal life.

• £30 could buy emergency medicine and food for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Kosova Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KER359, 64 Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below

I enclose £30 my choice £\_\_\_\_\_ to save Kosovar children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KER359, 64 Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.)

Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card:

Card no. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Dan McCready, (114), The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KER359, 64 Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW – your gift will save lives

## FRIDAY POEM

## C\*IT'S I\*TER\*UPT'S

BY ANN DRYSDALE

Crosswords in bed. Last night we finished it  
In the most satisfying way. Together.  
Cries of discovery and delight  
As our thought-processes sparked one another  
Made little echoes in our duvet-tent.  
Clustered together round the anglepoise  
Signs of our cruciverbal element –  
Two cocoon and a packet of rich teas  
Tonight was cheerful by comparison.  
You called a sudden halt to the proceedings.  
Said something burly, threw the crossword down  
And turned your back to me and started reading  
A gust of wind slamming the gates of heaven:  
A form of mental torture: 6,11.

This poem comes from Ann Drysdale's collection 'Gay Science', published at £7.95 by Peterloo Poets, 2 Kelly Gardens, Calstock, Cornwall PL18 9SA.

PETER PARKER



Reg. Charity No. 208070

# Anthony Newley

ONE OF Britain's most distinctive talents, Anthony Newley was an actor, singer, composer and writer who had his first starring role in films at the age of 16, composed hit musicals and songs, topped the hit parade himself as a pop star, played everything from romantic leads to quirky character roles in movies, starred on both the West End and Broadway stages, and became a favourite of cabaret audiences from New York to Las Vegas.

His elongated Cockney vowel sounds made his voice an unmistakable one which people either loved or hated. It served him well on novelty songs such as "Pop Goes the Weasel", but he was also a fine ballad singer. "What Kind of Fool Am I", "Who Can I Turn To" and "Candy Man" were just three of the hit songs he co-wrote. "I'm not a trained musician or singer," he once said, "but I can turn out a song."

Born in Hackney, east London, in 1931, he left school at the age of 14. "The saddest thing about myself," he later said, "is that I never read a book. I never got the habit." He was working as an office boy for an insurance company when he spotted a newspaper advertisement reading "Boy Actors Urgently Wanted". Said Newley later, "Suddenly the bell rang! I applied to the advertisers, the Italia Conti Stage School, only to discover the fees were too high." The school agreed to let him audition, however ("I had to read poems to two sweet old ladies who were charmed with my cockney accent"), and were impressed enough to offer him free tuition and a salary of 30 shillings a week as an office boy. The producer Geoffrey de Barker spotted Newley at the school and gave him the leading role in a children's film serial, *The Adventures of Dusty Bates* (1947).

Newley was already displaying a distinctly individual style of agreeably knowing confidence, and after another children's film, *The Little Ballerina* (1947), he was given the plum role of a boy who magically changes places with his own father in *Vice Versa* (1947), directed by Peter Ustinov. Ustinov recently said, "I was amazed at how convincing Anthony Newley was as someone with an old mind inside him." One of the stars of the film was Kay Walsh, whose ex-husband David Lean was about to direct a screen version of *Oliver Twist*. Walsh rang Lean and told him, "I've found your Artful Dodger", and Newley's superbly insolent and cheeky performance became one of the many reasons that the 1948 film became a classic.

Given a contract by the Rank Organisation, the actor then settled into a comfortable niche as a character player, often as cocky cockneys, in such films as *Here Come the Huggets* (1948, during the filming of which the actor later claimed to have lost his virginity to Diana Dors), *The Gurney Slade* (1950) and *A Boy, a Girl and a Bike* (1949), but when Rank dropped him after a year his film career faltered and he spent some time in repertory. Later he played chirpy enlisted men in war films including *Above Us the Waves* (1955). The Bat-

tle of the River Plate (1955) and Cockleshell Heroes (1955).

It was in 1956 that he was able to display just how versatile he was when he starred with Anna Ross in the musical revue *Cronks* at the small club theatre the New Watergate. This off-beat, almost surreal show proved a hit and transferred to the West End, to St Martin's Theatre, in March 1956, where it had a successful run before going to Broadway, where it fared less well. Newley's engaging rendition of such numbers as "I'm the Boy You Should Say Yes To" contributed greatly to the show's charm, and in 1956 he toured England with his own variety show.

A turning point came with a literally star-making role in the low-budget musical film *Idle on Parade* (1959) in which Newley played a rock 'n' roll star induced into the Army (in America the film was called *Idol on Parade*). One of his numbers in the film, "I've Waited So Long" (composed by Jerry Lordan) became a pop sensation and overnight Newley found himself a teenage heart-throb. In 1960 he had seven records in the charts, including Lloyd Price and Harold Logan's "Personality" and two No 1 hits, the wistful "Why", by Robert Marucci, and Peter de Angelis and Lionel Bart's "Do You Mind".

*I don't hate anybody or anything. But I do expect to make statements about the problems of being a human being'*

Newley surprised his public again when in 1960 he made his first record album, *Love Is a Now and Then Thing*, a beautiful set of ballads such as "This Time the Dream's on Me" and "I Get Along Without You Very Well" which he handled with appealing sensitivity.

Never one to embrace the conventional, Newley next starred in a television series which, though short-lived, is remembered as one of the most avant-garde in television history. *The Strange World of Gurney Slade* (1960) was a bizarre show in which the central character (named by Newley after the Somerset village of the same name) talked to animals and inanimate objects, heard what people were thinking, had conversations with people who could not see him, and moved in and out of reality. Though written by Sid Green and Dick Hills, its concept was doubtless embraced and heavily influenced by the star.

Newley next fulfilled a long-standing ambition to star in his own stage musical, and fortuitously became part of a partnership with the com-



Newley with Joan Collins. "I had drooled over pictures of Joan," he said. They married in 1963

"a half-Jewish princess from Bayswater via Sunset Boulevard".

The following year the Bricusse-Newley team had a big hit with their lyrics to John Barry's music for *Goldfinger*, sung over the titles of the James Bond film by Shirley Bassey.

The next Newley-Bricusse musical, *The Roar of the Greasepaint - the Smell of the Crowd*, a comic allegory about the class system in contemporary Britain, had a better score than its predecessor but its 1964 tryout in Nottingham, starring Norman Wisdom and directed by Newley, did not prove satisfactory and it failed to reach London. David Merrick was again impressed, and offered to take it to Broadway if Newley would assume the leading role.

Co-starring Cyril Ritchard (representing the "haves" to Newley's down-trodden "have-nots"), the show received mixed reviews for its libretto's pretensions ("third-rate commerce masquerading as art"), said Walter Kerr of the *Herald-Tribune*, but unanimous praise for the songs and performances. Whitney Bolton wrote in the *Morning*

Telegraph: "Mr Newley uses his own inventions, plus deliberate and useful, justifiably purloined gestures common to Charlie Chaplin, Lupino Lane, Buster Keaton, Stan Laurel and others, as though giving us a portrait gallery of great comics who have made their names as Little Men against the harsh world."

The score ("bursting with songs, all good and several of hit quality," wrote *Variety*) was exceptional, its hits including "Who Can I Turn To" (already a hit record by Tony Bennett when the show opened), "A Wonderful Day Like Today", "The Joker", "Nothing Can Stop Me Now", "Look at That Face" and "Sweet Beginning". The original cast album sold over 100,000 copies, and the show ran for over eight months. Newley and Bricusse were nominated for the Tony Award for Best Score, and Newley was nominated for Best Director, but this was the year that *Fiddler on the Roof* won most of the major musical awards. Asked about his prediction for writing about the problems of the "Little Man", Newley replied, "I

don't hate anybody or anything. But I do expect to make statements about the problems of being a human being."

Newley made his American film debut with a leading role in the film *Doctor Dolittle* (1967), with Bricusse alone providing the songs though Newley made a fine solo album of the score. The actor then starred with Sandy Dennis in *Sweet November* (1968), a sentimental but rarely make-believe tale of a dying girl who takes a different sweetheart every month.

Newley's own marriage was under pressure and in 1969 he produced, directed and co-wrote *Can Hieronymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humpf and Find True Happiness?*, co-starring Collins and with plainly autobiographical overtones. "A zany erotic biography that looks like a Marx Brothers' movie shot in a nudist camp," was Playboy's description of the film, which was not a success. For the score, Newley collaborated with Herbert Kretzmer, who became a lifelong friend.

"Although I was the lyricist, the film's concept and the ideas for the

songs were Newley's - he was the architect and I was the builder," said Kretzmer. One of the songs they wrote, "When You Gotta Go", was for a time a staple of Barbra Streisand's stage act. Newley and Collins were divorced in 1970, and Newley's third marriage, to an air hostess, Dareth Rich, also ended in divorce. "My only regret is that in a show-business career you can have no private life," said Newley.

He and Bricusse wrote the songs for the 1971 film fantasy *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, including the hit "Candy Man". In 1972 he returned to the West End stage with *The Good Old Bad Old Days*, which had book music and lyrics by Newley and Bricusse and direction by Newley. Despite a timely score and a personal success, the show had only a moderate run and Newley began to spend more time in the United States, where he had bought a house and had developed a large following. In 1974 he starred with Henry Mancini in a musical revue on Broadway, and he became a top night-club entertainer, with sell-out appearances in Las Vegas. His last major film was *Mister Quip* (1976), for which he wrote both music and lyrics, though he made several television movies.

In 1985 he was diagnosed with cancer and had one kidney removed. Returning to England, he moved in with his mother Gracie in Esher, Surrey. With his illness arrested, he continued to work, appearing in television shows, touring in a stage production of Leslie Bricusse's musical *Scrooge*, and last year playing a successful London cabaret engagement. On television he played an amorous used-car dealer in several episodes of *EastEnders*.

For the last seven years his partner was Gina Fratini, but he was a valued friend to all those close to him and he had remained on good terms with both Joan Collins and Dareth Rich - Collins would be seen at all of Newley's London openings. Herbert Kretzmer said of Newley, "It's a hackneyed phrase I know, but Newley was truly a 'one-off', a totally unique and original talent". Leslie Bricusse echoed these sentiments when he wrote, "Never once have I known Tony to falter for one moment in his perpetual quest for something original - to say things and do things in a new way - to find fresh excitement, even in old themes. He takes infinite pains to bring style and originality to everything he touches."

"He was a true original," said Kretzmer, "driven by the need to innovate and contemptuous of repetition or the following of fashion. His wish was always to break boundaries and push frontiers back."

TOM VALLANCE

George Anthony Newley, actor, singer, composer and writer; born London 24 September 1931; married 1956 Ann Lynn (marriage dissolved); 1963 Joan Collins (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1970, thirly Dareth Rich (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved); died Jensen Beach, Florida 14 April 1999.

## Nicola Trussardi



*He was like a modern-day Renaissance princeling. Pavarotti called him 'the greatest ambassador of "Made in Italy" in the world'*

set up joint ventures in the United States, Europe and Japan.

He was a dynamic and focused businessman and kept a tight rein on the company, controlling every aspect of the business from finance to design and advertising campaigns. "Few people are so sincerely involved in every aspect of their work as Nicola Trussardi," says the fashion photographer Steven Klein. "It was great to collaborate with a designer who was so readily available to the photographer and so willing to take chances." Trussardi was charming, highly regarded by his staff, good at media relations and conscientious if a problem had to be solved.

Trussardi enjoyed a life surrounded by beautiful things and powerful friends, and was a close friend of the former Italian premier Bettino Craxi before he was toppled in corruption scandals in the early 1990s. Trussardi was once described by Luciano Pavarotti as "one of the best ambassadors of 'Made in Italy' in the world. All his creations are characterised by great

taste, great style, especially in choice of materials."

He owned a Renaissance villa at Bergamo and enjoyed sailing near his home on the tiny island of Elba, off the Tuscan coast. The house, designed by a pupil of Le Corbusier, was filled with a fine collection of modern art including works by Magritte and De Chirico. There he entertained Pavarotti, Umberto Eco, Queen Noor of Jordan, Tina Turner and Robert Altman. He made a guest appearance as himself in Altman's 1994 fashion movie *Prêt-à-Porter*.

Like a modern-day Renaissance princeling he had a passion for the arts and transformed a former hotel, the Palazzo Marino alla Scala, into the company headquarters, with a museum and art gallery on the upper floor. He was keen to raise cultural awareness and hosted exhibitions of work by Picasso, Allan Jones and Van Gogh, and photography by Dennis Hopper, Eva Arnold and Robert Mapplethorpe. His interest in the arts spread to music when he participated in a festival dedicated to Paganini at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg in 1993 and jointly sponsored a Pavarotti and Friends concert for the charity War Child the following year.

His death came as a result of an accident when he was driving home to Bergamo after the private view of a new exhibition in his gallery on Monday. His car went out of control on a road exit ramp and crashed at high speed.

FRANCESCA FEARON

Nicola Trussardi, fashion designer and businessman; born Bergamo, Italy 17 June 1942; married Maria Luisa Garavaglia (two sons, two daughters); died Milan 14 April 1999.

## Garth Robinson



GARTH ROBINSON was a biochemist at Oxford University for over 30 years who became briefly, in the early Eighties, a national hero for his progressive policies on lawn mowing. "Why bother with a hover?" called the newspaper headlines.

Robinson joined a lively, individualistic, department in 1965, where he carried out research into kidney basement membranes and their relevance to nephritis, the inflammation of the kidneys. He became involved in the development of artificial membranes which mimicked filter membranes outside the body, allowing the testing of various agents that could damage the kidney. At a time when many turned to molecular biochemistry he remained fascinated by the properties of whole biological structures, thereby contributing valued breadth to the study and teaching in the department. Within the university he served as Chairman of the sub Faculty of Biochemistry and Chairman of the Faculty of Biological Sciences.

Besides undertaking substantial responsibilities on the Committee for Animal Care, he declined to cut his front lawn until after their seeds had matured, much to the offence of the neighbours in the fashionable small estate on which he lived. When he circulated among them an essay outlining his policy, it was picked up by Radio Oxford, and in turn by the BBC Today programme.

Television coverage and a phone-in on the subject followed. Robinson was seen as a hero, liberating the middle class from a weekly chore. His last laugh was that after some years of his grass being treated in this way a conserved bee orchid appeared.

This was not eccentricity. It was rather the result of a careful consideration of ecology and a determination to allow his grandchildren to enjoy the diverse biological world that he had.

Robinson retired early in 1996 to walk, climb and pursue his many interests outside of science, but this was cruelly thwarted by a long illness during which he was nursed by a devoted wife, Sheila, and his daughter and two sons. At no time in his life was he ever happier than in their company and that of his grandchildren, and he and Sheila were a joy to visit even when he became extremely ill.

K. A. MC LAUCHLAN

Garth Burton Robinson, biochemist; born St Helens, Lancashire 1 July 1934; Lecturer, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Birmingham University as one of two students in the newly formed honours school of Medical Biochemistry. He remained there for his doctorate and became a research associate before spending a year in the Medical School at the University of Illinois. He returned to Birmingham for one year as a Lecturer and moved to Oxford in 1965. At that time not every Lecturer was associated with a College Fellowship but he was elected to Herford College in 1969.

In college he was an enthusiastic tutor who made substantial demands on his pupils but inspired them with his novel and somewhat irreverent approach. This also characterised his contribution to the college which he joined at a time of rapid expansion and development. Every problem was analysed from first principles, often leading him to suggest fundamental changes in how things were done. He never let the fact that change in Oxford tends to proceed in increments deter him and his opinions often triumphed at college meetings. He made invaluable contributions to the Finance Committee, and to the gratitude of the Fellows was long an outstanding Cellarmaster.

One of his hobbies was gardening, which he saw mainly as a method for producing food. He had no patience with cultivated flowers which merely took up valuable vegetable space, but was passionate about wild flowers.

He advocated that gardens should be freely planted with them years before this became fashion-

Scientist

the eth

## Harvey Postlethwaite

THERE WERE better-known designers in Formula One, but Harvey Postlethwaite had greater things on his mind than publicity. One of the sport's more enduring characters, he was a free-thinker who was far more concerned about creating competitive racing cars. His F1 career spanned 26 years, at least twice the norm.

He sprang to prominence with Lord Hesketh's eponymous team in 1973, when he moved over from the March company to engineer Hesketh's privately owned March 731G for a young Englishman called James Hunt.

Few took them seriously; Postlethwaite held a BSc and a PhD in mechanical engineering from Birmingham University, which had taken him to ICI in 1968 as a research specialist in advanced materials, and had three years' experience at March, but was still an unknown. Hesketh was seen as little more than a playboy, and Hunt had been written off by most after a series of shunts had seen him sacked the previous year by March. But they melded together brilliantly, their outward irreverence masking steely determination. Soon Hunt was running in the top six. By the end of the year, as the works March flopped, Hunt was challenging Ronnie Peterson and Lotus for victory in America.

The following year he won the non-championship Daily Express International Trophy race at Silverstone in Postlethwaite's first Hesketh car, and ran strongly in the Grand Prix. A year later still Hunt scored a brilliant victory in Holland over World Champion-elect Niki Lauda's Ferrari, driving a developed version of Postlethwaite's racer.

Postlethwaite moved on to the Wolf team in 1977, when Jody Scheckter won first time out in Argentina, before adding two more successes. Then followed Postlethwaite's Italian era with Ferrari. Setting fluently into the Italian way of life, he dragged the Scuderia into the modern era as he laid the foundation for today's English influence within Ferrari's technical department.

In 1982 and 1983 the team took the Constructors' World Championship with Postlethwaite's designs. Later, he would play a key role in the development of the semi-automatic transmission that is now ubiquitous, and which has removed the missed gearshift from the racing driver's book of excuses. When he moved in 1988 to the first of his two spells with Tyrrell, the second was in 1994, and he and the aerodynamicist Jean-Claude Migeot pioneered the raised nose which is also now universal.

Postlethwaite's forte as a designer was down-to-earth pragmatism combined with a probing mind. An unusu-

al shape for the Hesketh March in 1973 was nicknamed "Silly Nose" within the team, but was in fact a clever development of the wide "splitter" style of nose that would also become widespread.

Sometimes one was tempted to believe that there were two Harvey Postlethwaites, Happy Harvey and Horrid Harvey. When the mood took him he could be abrupt. Once, as a tentative sprocket reporter in Brazil, I asked him if he had a moment to discuss how the Ferraris had gone in qualifying as he stood alone, staring at the sky, during what seemed a quiet moment. "No," he retorted trenchantly. When reminded of the incident years later, he was genuinely embarrassed. It wasn't that he was intentionally rude, more that there were times when he was totally preoccupied, wrestling mentally with a technical problem.

Last year we were discussing his vision of F1's future in Japan, when suddenly he said, "Never mind all that crap. How's life since you went freelance? Are you having a good time?" Privately, he clearly thought a lot about the people he shared paddock space with. He had

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whoosh!*

the rare distinction of being one of those characters you wanted to bump into in the F1 paddock. He was amusing, passionate and irreverent, but also clever and willing and able to explain technicalities to the lay mind.

Mike Gascoyne, the technical director at Jordan who was his number two at Tyrrell, said: "Harvey was a defining figure in my career and the careers of many other young engineers. His infectious enthusiasm for both engineering and motorsport was an inspiration to all those who had the benefit of working with him."

Most of the time he exuded thorough outgoing bonhomie. He was not dissimilar in either appearance or manner to the land speed record ace Richard Noble. It was something of a joke that, since nobody had ever seen them together, they must therefore be one and the same person, because they shared so many personality traits.

The Tyrrell team regularly hosted a



Postlethwaite at the San Marino Grand Prix, 1993 Pascal Rondeau

press dinner in the paddock during the French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours. Postlethwaite - also known as "the Doc" - loved the event and the social banter, and was a fund of hilarious anecdotes. He would rub it in good-naturedly if anyone dared to miss the party because of a prior engagement. Last year's dinner was the end of an era, for it marked the last for Tyrrell, which had been sold by its founder Ken Tyrrell and was soon to be branded British American Racing. It fell right in the middle of one of England's televised World Cup matches, which ensured that it was a riotous success.

In his new role co-ordinating Honda's test programme, before the company's planned re-entry into F1 in 2000, Postlethwaite remained outspoken on technical matters. "I would like to see a far greater freedom of electronic control systems," he said. "I think we are probably right four or five years ago to put

a brake on some of these things because they are getting a little bit out of hand, but I think now that we understand them better and that the governing body is in a position to police them a bit better. We ought to be allowing more. I do really think it's a bit silly when there is more sophisticated control on your road car than there is on an F1 car. F1 should be a product leader, not a product follower."

But he was not too vain as an engineer to play down the role of the driver. "If I had to go out and spend a budget to go F1 motor racing, I would spend a great big chunk of it on getting the best possible one," he said. "The day we put Jody Scheckter in a Wolf was the day the team went whoosh!"

DAVID TREMAYNE

Harvey Postlethwaite, mechanical engineer; born 4 March 1944; married (one son, one daughter); died Barcelona 13 April 1999.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

OFARRELL: On 8 April, in Chichester, to Joanna and Sean, a gorgeous son, Seanus Fred.

FOR BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial Services, Wedding anniversaries, etc.) in memoranda, £10.00-£20.00 or £5.00 to £17.25. £25.00 for Obituaries. Other notices are charged at £25.00. Please Obituaries. OTHER Gazette announcements, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra.

#### LECTURES

The Evolution of Watercolour Paper from Constable to Turner 1750-1850, 1pm. British Museum; John Ormiston, "HSBC Money Gallery: war and currency", 11.30am.

### GAZETTE

#### BIRTHDAYS

Queen Margrethe of Denmark, 55; Lord Aberconway, former president, John Brown & Co, 86; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Austin, 78; Miss Jenny Bacon, Director-General, Health and Safety Executive, 54; Miss Joan Bakewell, television presenter, 66; Lord Camoys, a Lord-in-Waiting, and deputy chairman, British Airways, 90; Ms Valerie Davey MP, 59; Miss Lynne Franks, writer and broadcaster, 51; Mr François Gordon, ambassador to Algeria, 64; Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman, ICI, 75; Mr Vince Hill, singer, 67; Mr Michael Hirst, former Chief Constable, Leicestershire, 81; Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith MP, 75; Mr Richard Kershaw, radio and television broadcaster, 65; Miss Ruth Madoc, 56; Mr Peter Marshall, chairman, Ocean Group, 72; Miss Conchita Martinez, tennis player, 37; Mr Spike Milligan, comedian and writer, 81; Mr Jimmy Osmond, singer, 36; Sir Geoffrey Owen, former Editor, *Financial Times*, 65; Mr Frank Page, television journalist and broadcaster, 69; Mr Gerry Rafferty, singer and songwriter, 53; Mr James Rant, 50.

Judge Advocate General of the Army and RAJ, 63; Sir John Robson, former ambassador to Norway, 69; Miss Gabriela Sabatini, tennis player, 29; Miss Constance Shacklock, opera singer, 86; Mr Llewellyn Smith MP, 55; Dr William Stearn, consultant botanist, 88; Mr Leo Tindemans, statesman, 77; Professor Barbara Tizard, educationist, 73; Sir Peter Ustinov, actor and writer, 78.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Charles Montagu, first Earl of Halifax, poet and founder of the Bank of England, 1661; Wilbur Wright, aviation pioneer, 1867; Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin, comedian, 1898; Henry (Eurion) Mancini, composer, 1924; Deaths: Aphra Behn, playwright and novelist, 1689; Maria (Gresholtz) Tussaud, waxworks show proprietor, 1850; Bernadette Soubirous, St Bernadette of Lourdes, 1879. On this day: Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, was decisively defeated at Culloden by Cumberland, 1746; the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (EEC) was set up, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Bernadette, St Contardo, St Drogio or Druon, St Enerais, St

Fructusus Braga, St Joseph Benedict Labre, St Magnus of Orkney, St Opatus and Martyrs of Saragossa, St Paternus or Pair of Avranches and St Tiburius of Astorga.

#### LUNCHEONS

HM Government: Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence was the host at a luncheon given by HM Government yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Dr Janos Szabo, Minister for Defence of the Republic of Hungary.

#### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.45pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 2020; Federation of Synagogues: 0181-343 2020; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663; Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731; Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-288 2573; New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-326 1126.

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales launches the "Breakthrough" Corporate Challenge at the Royal Armouries, Leeds. The Princess Royal visits St Magnus' Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney; opens the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall; and, as President, Riding for the Disabled Association, visits the Orkney Branch at the Rugby Football Club, Orkney. The Duke of Kent, Liverymen, the Mercers' Company attends a lunch at Mercers' Hall, London EC2. Princess Alexandra, Patron of Home-Start, visits the Clackmannshire Scheme at 6 Restalrig Road, South, Lothian, Edinburgh; and, as Deputy President, visits the British Red Cross Shop at 17 Maple Court, Shillinghill, Alloa.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

### CHESS

#### JON SPEELMAN

THE DOS Hermanos tournament in Spain is drawing to its close with just two potentially exciting rounds left. Today the leader Michael Adams on 5/7 plays White against Vladimir Kramnik on 4.5 - and neither player will be absolutely satisfied with a draw, since tomorrow Kramnik has White against Topalov while Adams has a potentially treacherous Black against Karpov.

The other scores are Gelfand, Illescas and Topalov 4, Karpov 3.5, Korchnoi 8, Anand and Svidler 2.5. Judit Polgar 2.

Of these, the most striking is Viswanathan Anand's awful form, with two losses and not a single win. And things could have been even worse...

11 Ng5 is Igor Zaitsev's amazing concept which Anatoly Karpov sprang on Viktor Korchnoi in the 10th game of their monumental world championship match in Baguio City in 1978. The idea is to answer 11...Qxg5 with 12 Qf3 and this has now given rise to much complex and unclear theory.

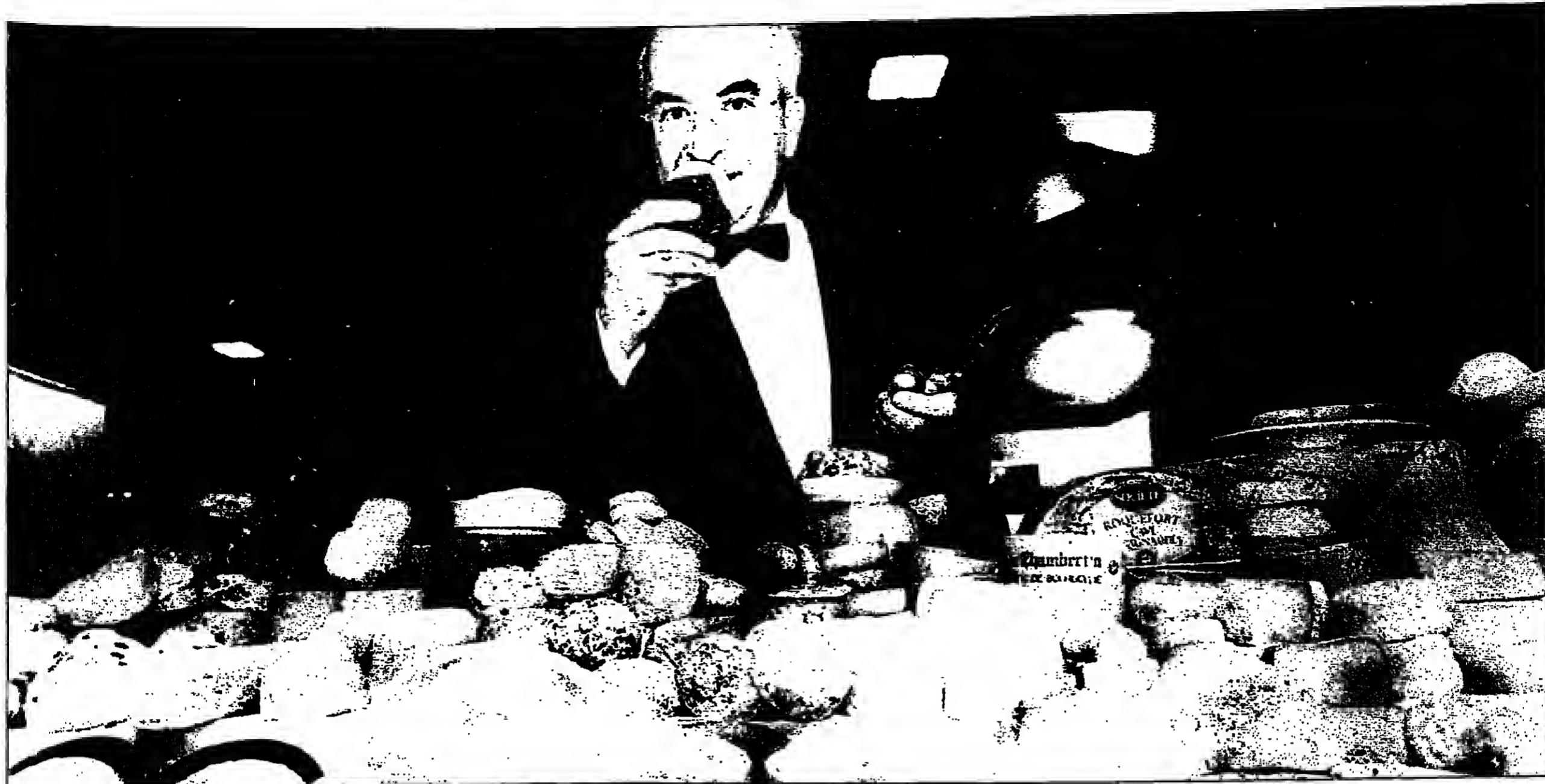
11...Bd5 was supposed to be quite reliable but the splendid

novelty 15 e6! forcing open the e file puts the ball firmly back in Black's court. Svidler got a vicious attack and could have improved with the simple 26 dxe6 Rxe6 (f2 26...Nc6 27 Rxf2) 27 Bf4.

But Anand's inspired wriggling eventually gave him some initiative for the several pawns deficit and on move 43 he won a piece - though 43...Rc2+ 44 Kd1 Rxf2 may be better. The widely separated pawns proved much better than the knight but Anand set up an apparently watertight defence with the pawn on d4 indirectly protected by the knight fork...Nb5+.

The tragedy for Svidler is he

has never beaten Anand; is he agreed the draw in a won position? After 70 Kxd4 Nc6+ 71 Kc5 Nxa7 72 Kd6 Nc6+ 73 Kc7 White wins after either 73...Ne7 74 Kd7 Kc7 75 f5+! or 73...Ne7 74 Kd7 Nb5 (or 74...Kc7 75 Kd8) 75 Kd7 Kc7 76 f5+ Kd8 77 Kd8 Kc7? 78 Kd7 Kc7 79 Kd8 Kc7? 80 Rxe7 Bxe7? 81 Rxe7 Nf7 82 Rxe7 Nf7 83 Rxe7+ Kf7 84 Rxe7 Kf7 85 Rxe7+ Kf7 86 Rxe7 Kf7 87 Rxe7+ Kf7 88 Rxe7 Kf7 89 Rxe7+ Kf7 90 Rxe7 Kf7 91 Rxe7+ Kf7 92 Rxe7 Kf7 93 Rxe7+ Kf7 94 Rxe7 Kf7 95 Rxe7+ Kf7 96 Rxe7 Kf7 97 Rxe7+ Kf7 98 Rxe7 Kf7 99 Rxe7+ Kf7 100 Rxe7 Kf7 101 Rxe7+ Kf7 102 Rxe7 Kf7 103 Rxe7+ Kf7 104 Rxe7 Kf7 105 Rxe7+ Kf7 106 Rxe7 Kf7 107 Rxe7+ Kf7 108 Rxe7 Kf7 109 Rxe7+ Kf7 110 Rxe7 Kf7 111 Rxe7+ Kf7 112 Rxe7 Kf7 113 Rxe7+ Kf7 114 Rxe7 Kf7 115 Rxe7+ Kf7 116 Rxe7 Kf7 117 Rxe7+ Kf7 118 Rxe7 Kf7 119 Rxe7+ Kf7 120 Rxe7 Kf7 121 Rxe7+ Kf7 122 Rxe7 Kf7 123 Rxe7+ Kf7 124 Rxe7 Kf7 125 Rxe7+ Kf7 126 Rxe7 Kf7 127 Rxe7+ Kf7 128 Rxe7 Kf7 129 Rxe7+ Kf7 130 Rxe7 Kf7 131 Rxe7+ Kf7 132 Rxe7 Kf7 133 Rxe7+ Kf7 134 Rxe7 Kf7 135 Rxe7+ Kf7 136 Rxe7 Kf7 137 Rxe7+ Kf7 138 Rxe7 Kf7 139 Rxe7+ Kf7 140 Rxe7 Kf7 141 Rxe7+ Kf7 142 Rxe7 Kf7 143 Rxe7+ Kf7 144 Rxe7 Kf7 145 Rxe7+ Kf7 146 Rxe7 Kf7 147 Rxe7+ Kf7 148 Rxe7 Kf7 149 Rxe7+ Kf7 150 Rxe7 Kf7 151 Rxe7+ Kf7 152 Rxe7 Kf7 153 Rxe7+ Kf7 154 Rxe7 Kf7 155 Rxe7+ Kf7 156 Rxe7 Kf7 157 Rxe7+ Kf7 158 Rxe7 Kf7 159 Rxe7+ Kf7 160 Rxe7 Kf7 161 Rxe7+ Kf7 162 Rxe7 Kf7 163 Rxe7+ Kf7 164 Rxe7 Kf7 165 Rxe7+ Kf7 166 Rxe7 Kf7 167 Rxe7+ Kf7 168 Rxe7 Kf7 169 Rxe7+ Kf7 170 Rxe7 Kf7 171 Rxe7+ Kf7 172 Rxe7 Kf7 173 Rxe7+ Kf7 174 Rxe7 Kf7 175 Rxe7+ Kf7 176 Rxe7 Kf7 177 Rxe7+ Kf7 178 Rxe7 Kf7 179 Rxe7+ Kf7 180 Rxe7 Kf7 181 Rxe7+ Kf7 182 Rxe7 Kf7 183 Rxe7+ Kf7 184 Rxe7 Kf7 185 Rxe7+ Kf7 186 Rxe7 Kf7 187 Rxe7+ Kf7 188 Rxe7 Kf7 189 Rxe7+ Kf7 190 Rxe7 Kf7 191 Rxe7+ Kf7 192 Rxe7 Kf7 193 Rxe7+ Kf7 194 Rxe7 Kf7 195 Rxe7+ Kf7 196 Rxe7 Kf7 197 Rxe7+ Kf7 198 Rxe7 Kf7 199 Rxe7+ Kf7 200 Rxe7 Kf7 201 Rxe7+ Kf7 202 Rxe7 Kf7 203 Rxe7+ Kf7 204 Rxe7 Kf7 205 Rxe7+ Kf7 206 Rxe7 Kf7 207 Rxe7+ Kf7 208 Rxe7 Kf7 209 Rxe7+ Kf7 210 Rxe7 Kf7 211 Rxe7+ Kf7 212 Rxe7 Kf7 213 Rxe7+ Kf7 214 Rxe7 Kf7 215 Rxe7+ Kf7 216 Rxe7 Kf7 217 Rxe7+ Kf7 218 Rxe7 Kf7 219 Rxe7+ Kf7 220 Rxe7 Kf7 221 Rxe7+ Kf7 222 Rxe7 Kf7 223 Rxe7+ Kf7 224 Rxe7 Kf7 225 Rxe7+ Kf7 226 Rxe7 Kf7 227 Rxe7+ Kf7 228 Rxe7 Kf7 229 Rxe7+ Kf7 230 Rxe7 Kf7 231 Rxe7+ Kf7 232 Rxe7 Kf7 233 Rxe7+ Kf7 234 Rxe7 Kf7 235 Rxe7+ Kf7 236 Rxe7 Kf7 237 Rxe7+ Kf7 238 Rxe7 Kf7 239 Rxe7+ Kf7 240 Rxe7 Kf7 241 Rxe7+ Kf7 242 Rxe7 Kf7 243 Rxe7+ Kf7 244 Rxe7 Kf7 245 Rxe7+ Kf7 246 Rxe7 Kf7 247 Rxe7+ Kf7 248 Rxe7 Kf7 249 Rxe7+ Kf7 250 Rxe7 Kf7 251 Rxe7+ Kf7 252 Rxe7 Kf7 253 Rxe7+ Kf7 254 Rxe7 Kf7 255 Rxe7+ Kf7 256 Rxe7 Kf7 257 Rxe7+ Kf7 258 Rxe7 Kf7 259 Rxe7+ Kf7 260 Rxe7 Kf7 261 Rxe7+ Kf7 262 Rxe7 Kf7 263 Rxe7+ Kf7 264 Rxe7 Kf7 265 Rxe7+ Kf7 266 Rxe7 Kf7 267 Rxe7+ Kf7 268 Rxe7 Kf7 269 Rxe7+ Kf7 270 Rxe7 Kf7 271 Rxe7+ Kf7 272 Rxe7 Kf7 273 Rxe7+ Kf7 274 Rxe7 Kf7 275 Rxe7+ Kf7 276 Rxe7 Kf7 277 Rxe7+ Kf7 278 Rxe7 Kf7 279 Rxe7+ Kf7 280 Rxe7 Kf7 281 Rxe7+ Kf7 282 Rxe7 Kf7 283 Rxe7+ Kf7 284 Rxe7 Kf7 285 Rxe7+ Kf7 286 Rxe7 Kf7 287 Rxe7+ Kf7 2



# Liberté! Fraternité! Fromage!

**A new crisis is dividing France. Cheese. In particular, the soft, smelly unpasteurised cheese of French legend. Can it kill you? Does listeria hysteria mean death to an entire culture? And how reliable is the science behind the scare? By John Lichfield**

Gérard Poulard is a magician. After the main dish has been cleared away at the Montparnasse 25 restaurant, he arrives at your table like a conjuror, pushing a wheeled cabinet. From within, he produces, with a flourish, the whole of the French countryside, from Marilles in the mournful north to Roquefort in the empty, mountainous south west: a colourful and fragrant explosion of 120 to 150 kinds of French cheese.

Mr Poulard is one of the best, and certainly the most erudite and entertaining master cheese-waiters in Paris. He will list not only the names of the cheeses but also the names of the people who make them. He will explain the season when it is best to eat a certain cheese and why. (Goats' cheese is best in spring, when the soft grass is up on the hills of Burgundy or the Auvergne; Camembert in the early summer, when the Normandy grass is at its most lush.)

This week, Mr Poulard agreed to reverse roles. I visited him at the Montparnasse 25 (among the friendliest of starred Michelin restaurants) with my own selection of cheeses: typical supermarket offerings, heat-treated, plastic-wrapped but not necessarily cheap. I wanted him to help me to understand a great gastronomic-hygienic-political debate which has been raging in the French press, and the French supermarket aisle, since the beginning of the year.

What is the definition of a genuine, and typically French, soft cheese? Can the traditional soft cheese, made with raw milk, kill you? Is the infinite variety of French cheeses – one of the great achievements of French culture – threatened with a thinning out, a dumbing down, by a conspiracy between French officialdom, the European Commission, the United States and the mass cheese-makers?

Mr Poulard cheerfully consented to try my selection. Taking a slice of one of the best-selling mass-produced, heat-treated Camemberts (Président), he swung his knife gently from side to side, and then around in slow circles, as he considered its taste and texture. His face was impassive but his eyes seemed to contain a profound sadness; this was the look of a man whose suspicions had been miserably confirmed.

"This cheese is very interesting," he said. "For children. This is the kind of cheese that you could eat and then leave immediately for an assignation with your mistress without fear of being rejected."

"This is the perfect cheese for someone who expects to kiss someone before the night is over. In other words, this is a perfectly good and honourable cheese except that it is bland, almost odourless, almost tasteless. It is a cheese for people who don't like cheese."

Cheese is a French paradox. Here we have a country that is mocked by the clever, freedom-loving Anglo-Saxons for its statist impulses, its suspicion of the market-place, its over-regulation, its restrictions of choice. And yet France has devised hundreds of ways of turning cows', sheep's and goats' milk into something called cheese: all different, all delicious.

Charles de Gaulle once famously said that it was impossible to govern a country with 365 different kinds of cheese. He understood the problem. There are officially recognised to be 334 types of French cheese, and some obstinate "fromageologues" (cheesologists) reckon that, taking sub-varieties into account, there are more than 1,000.

America, the home of liberty and choice, is the world's biggest cheese producer, churning out twice as much cheese as France. But can you name a single American cheese? They do exist but they tend to be rubberised, over-processed versions of European cheeses, best used as doorstoppers or shock-absorbers.

Now, many French cheese traditionalists, including Mr Poulard, fear that France is heading inexorably in the same direction, or may be unless something is done. "If you look at this trolley," said Mr Poulard, "you are looking at a wonderful array of flavours, odours, soils, climates, techniques, handed down and refined over centuries. You may also be looking at a museum piece. As the law now stands, many of these cheeses are doomed to vanish."

Since 1 January of last year, EU regulations transposed into a new French law have made it illegal to sell a cheese that contains the merest trace of the listeria germ, which exists widely in everything around us but can cause serious food poisoning among people with reduced resistance (the young, the elderly, the pregnant). Since 1 January of this year, any discovery of listeria in cheese has to be announced in the press and the batch in question must be withdrawn from the market.

In January there was a genuine and serious case of listeriosis in France, which killed two people, including a newborn baby who had been infected in the womb. The outbreak was traced to a factory in Burgundy making a rich, soft cheese called Epoisses. The factory – long accused by other local cheese-makers of taking short-cuts with safety methods – was closed, and 200,000 cheeses were destroyed.

The French public did not distinguish one brand of Epoisses from another. Sales of all Epoisses cheeses plunged by 70 per cent and have barely recovered three months later. The other producers – there are only half a dozen altogether – are barely surviving. Epoisses, a centuries-old cheese that was revived commercially in the Fifties, and is sometimes known as "the king of cheeses", may soon cease to exist, like some rare species of Amazonian beetle or butterfly.

Since January, there have been a series of listeria "finds" in other soft cheeses, none of which has produced sickness or death. The finds have been widely and sometimes misleadingly publicised, partly because of the incident in Burgundy, partly because of the new regulations. With each announcement, sales of the cheeses involved – St-Félicien, Maroilles and unpasteurised Camembert – have plummeted.

The general impression left by these scares – despite several careful articles in the French press: less so items on television – is that there is suddenly a health problem with the traditional French soft, runny cheese made from *lait cru*, or raw, unpasteurised milk. In fact, this is the reverse of the truth: all of the cheeses in which listeria germs were found (save one, to which we will return) were heat-treated cheeses. In other words, they were more like the kinds of supermarket cheeses I brought to Mr Poulard.

And yet it is the raw-milk cheeses that are suffering in the shops. What is going on?

The traditional French soft, runny cheese is made with untreated milk, maintained at the

temperature at which it leaves the cow's udder (37°C). There is no attempt made to kill off all bacteria, since the bacteria are what makes the cheese, including the lovely, chalky white *flare* – a form of fungus – which appears naturally on the rind of many soft cheeses. There will almost certainly be listeria germs in the cheese at some stage – since listeria is everywhere – but they will be fought and defeated by other bacteria naturally occurring in the cheese. If this were not so, soft cheese would have been poisoning people for centuries.

Enormous care is, however, needed to preserve the quality of the raw milk before, and while, the cheese is made. It is impossible – or impossibly expensive – to make soft cheese with untreated milk on an industrial scale. Large manufacturers, in France as elsewhere, have therefore adopted "pasteurisation" – heating milk to 72°C – or "thermisation" – which means heat treatment at 67°C.

The first destroys all the natural bacteria, good and bad, and therefore much of the variety and depth of taste. Controlled bacteria are used to make the cheese (including penicillin spray to replicate the white rind). The effect is a dull, more uniform, unsmelly cheese like the bland-but-romantic Camembert I served to Mr Poulard.

The second, less drastic heating method – which Mr Poulard approves of, within limits – allows cheese to be created in larger quantities but preserves more of its character and flavour. Almost all Camembert that advertises itself as being made with *lait cru* is in fact mildly heat-treated in this way. Put another way, the traditional, genuine,

raw-milk Camembert, which was invented by Madame Marie Harel 203 years ago, has already virtually ceased to exist.

The problem is that both forms of heat treatment also kill the natural defence bacteria in the cheese. The "processed" cheese is therefore vulnerable to listeria attack at a later stage. Supporters of the raw-milk cheese say that the conventional wisdom – pasteurised means healthy – is the reverse of the truth. The "cleaner" a cheese is, the more dangerous it can become.

Almost all the cheeses that have fallen foul of the new law so far had been heat-treated in one way or another (including the rogue killer Epoisses, which was pasteurised). The one genuine raw-milk cheese to have been in trouble was a St-Félicien. When the batch was checked a second and third time, the listeria was found to have gone: destroyed by the cheese's own natural defence mechanism.

None the less, sales of St-Félicien have fallen by 70 per cent. Makers and supporters of the raw-milk cheese say that a historic and gastronomic injustice is being committed.

The new regulations followed pressure from the US which is now having second thoughts but also lobbying by the big EU dairy companies, including French ones. The requirement for listeria-free cheese favours the pasteurised cheese-makers since, in theory, the raw and "thermised" milk cheeses are more likely to fall foul of the law.

To try to stay even notionally within the law, small, traditional cheese-producers are having to invest tens of thousands of pounds in new equipment. None the less, small doses of listeria will often be present – and harmlessly present – in traditional soft cheeses. The prospect of a whole series of damaging scares lies ahead. The premise – pasteurised healthy, unpasteurised dangerous – is now so deeply implanted in the public mind that few consumers, even French consumers, have noticed that it is the heat-treated cheeses that are causing the real difficulties.

The problem has been compounded by insensitive, and sometimes misleading, application of the laws by the French government machine, which is in the throes of a food-safety turf war between the ministries of agriculture and health.

Mr Poulard is not the only person to suspect an industrial "plot" to squash traditional French cheeses, which had, until now, been rapidly increasing their share of the market. This may be going a little too far. It seems more to be a case of bureaucratic heavy-handedness, compounded by misunderstanding by consumers. There is, however, a case for the EU directive, at the origin of the problem, to be urgently reviewed.

To make his case, Mr Poulard might consider sending to each member of the new European Commission a small piece of Clacquot, a goat's cheese from his trolley that we tasted after mine had been dumped in the bin. The cheese, which comes from Burgundy, resembles its homeland: On trying it, you encounter ridge after rolling ridge of taste, each as beautiful as the last.

# Sad farewell to the silicone dollies

**It's a disaster for womankind. Former 'Baywatch' babe Pamela Anderson has got rid of her breast implants. Why can't she leave the natural look to the rest of us? By Anita Chaudhuri**

her lips, the bleach from her hair or the mascara from her lashes.

Since the goddess of silicone has earned untold millions from her preposterous plastic endowments, it seems a hit late in the day for her to start espousing the virtues of realism. This from the creature who made her fortune on *Baywatch* before graduating to largely non-speaking roles in action movies such as *Bombshell* (don't worry, you didn't miss much) and *VIP*, a syndicated television detective series. Even post-*Baywatch*, her website still attracts 8 million visitors a month.

True, Anderson (who, approach-

priately enough, paid for her breast-enlargements out of her first *Playboy* fee), has not always been happy with her pneumatic shape. "When I came out of the recovery room, I said: 'Is that it?' I thought I'd be really huge, like Dolly Parton," later she commented: "I thought an implant would give me the cleavage I wanted, but with the pain and aggravation, it was hardly worth it."

But, whatever her reasons, Anderson's decision marks a sad day for other, less fantastically proportioned women. Pamela, and her synthetically enhanced sisters Caprice and Anna Nicole Smith, are strangely comforting in their

artificiality. We reassure ourselves that these women are freaks, Frankenstein's monsters created by silicone sorcerers. We wouldn't want to look that way, not if you paid us. After all, we reason, if only we too had a spare \$2,500 (the sum Anderson spent on her breasts), we could easily look just like that. Since we

can't compete with their pneumatic bulges, we can just forget about them and go back to munching our Pop Tarts.

Silicone fashions are a blessing for womankind. Women like Pamela Anderson and Anna Nicole Smith look so plastic and pumped up that men can safely fantasise about them without being any more unfaithful than if they were drooling over a rubber doll. To prove the

point, Anderson once appeared for the cameras in a spray-on rubber leotard and thigh-high pin-heel boots, observed by her husband as though she were a performing seal.

This version of womanhood is unreal, a real men need not engage with it. Of course, there are men whose image of themselves works better when pumped up. Sylvester Stallone reportedly burst into the operating theatre when his girlfriend, Angie Everhart, was about to undergo breast-enhancing surgery and persuaded the surgeon to make them even bigger than she wanted. Why? She must have been amazed when she came

round from the operation and wasn't very happy about it.

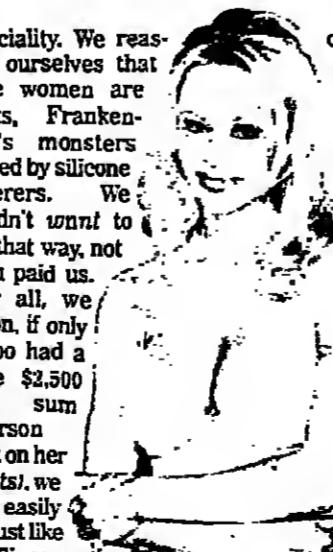
Sarah Grogan, a psychologist and author of *Body Image*, a study of body dissatisfaction among men, women and children, agrees that Anderson is an archetypal fantasy figure whom men respond to in a way that women don't.

"Men tend to prefer slenderness with largish breasts and this presents a conflict for women who wish to be attractive to men. Media images of women's bodies aimed at a male audience often present an unusual slim-hipped, long-legged, large-breasted ideal. Pamela Anderson is a good example. This ideal is possible for

most women only through a mixture of diet, exercise and plastic surgery."

In her study, Grogan asked 200 students aged between 16 and 48, what they would most like to look like. Cindy Crawford scored high among twenty-something women, while Michelle Pfeiffer got 13 per cent of the thirtysomethings' vote. Tellingly, no one mentioned poor Pamela.

Now all that may change. The last thing on earth that we want is for these women to look the way nature intended them to. Overnight our suide comments, of the "nothing but a plastic doll, men are mad to find that attractive" variety, must come to an abrupt halt. Now the Barbie brigade want to throw out the glamour and look like the rest of us. The sickening thing is, they may still look fantastic.



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# SCIENCE

## Small, deadly, likes to travel

An age-old pig virus in Malaysia has begun killing humans. So what has provoked it to jump species now? By Charles Arthur

**K**illing pigs in a pen may sound like a piece of simile, akin to shooting fish in a barrel. Except that in Malaysia and Singapore, killing pigs has become a necessary precaution to try to stop people dying. So far the Malaysian army has killed almost 800,000 pigs as part of an eradication programme that takes in 1.2 million animals nationally.

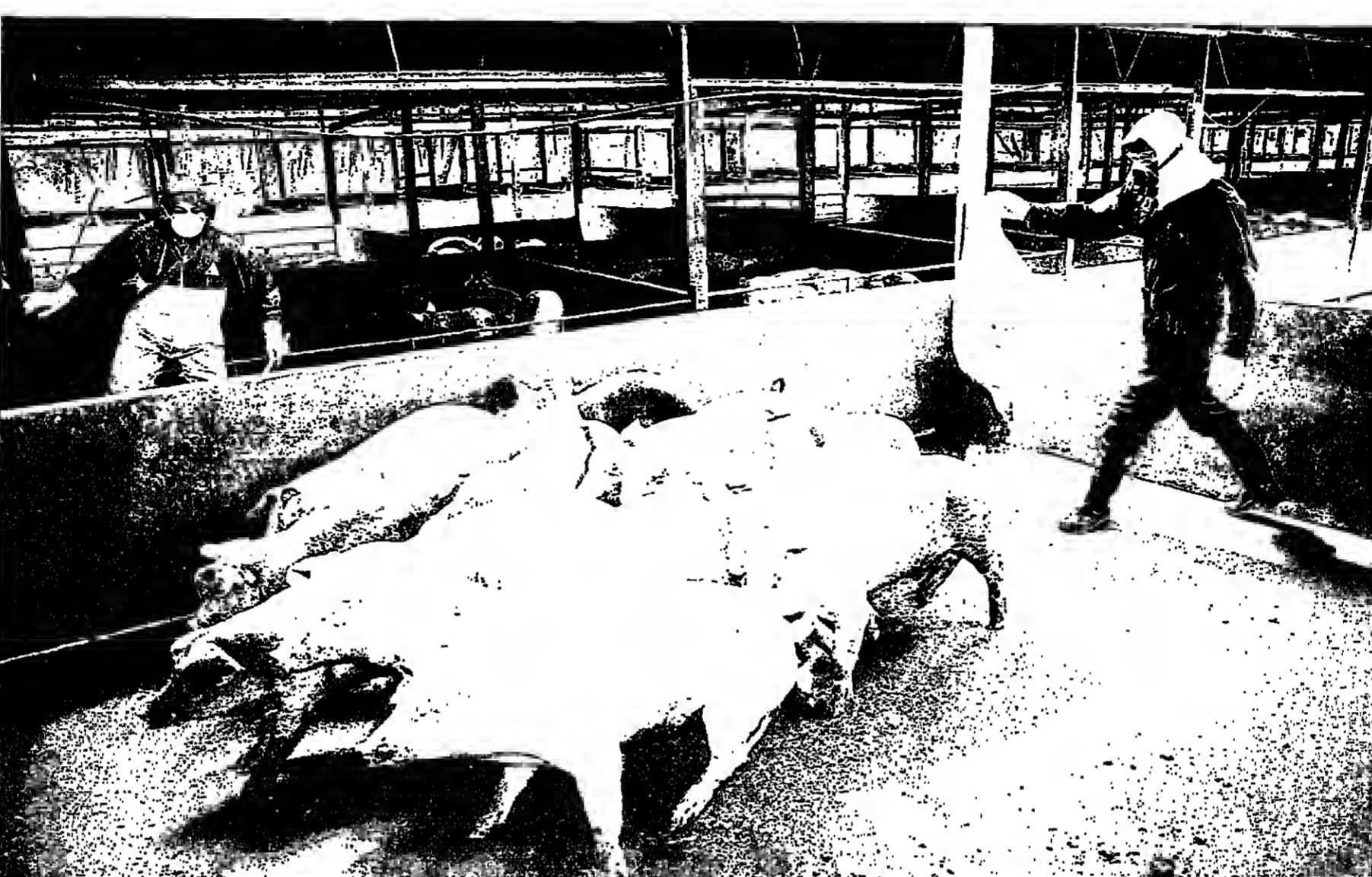
The aim is to prevent the human death toll - 117 since 29 September - from mounting further. The cause is what the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta calls "a virus that is not like any we have ever seen before".

As with so many before it, the cause of the outbreak is a zoonosis - a disease passed from animals to humans. Zoonoses include the most deadly illnesses known to humans, a roll-call including Aids, the Black Death and the Ebola virus, to name only the most famous.

So does that mean that the new virus causing the deaths in Malaysia is equally deadly? So far, the answer seems to be no. Though the CDC is still studying it, it appears that human beings are, in the scientific term, a "dead-end host" for the virus - that is, it is not transmitted between people. (Unfortunately, the use of this term early in the outbreak of mad cow disease, or BSE, when cattle were termed dead-end hosts, led people to conclude, wrongly, that BSE could not be transmitted to people. Though it is not caused by a virus, BSE is a zoonosis.)

What intrigues scientists is why a virus will emerge from an animal carrier - known as a "reservoir" - to infect a human being at one time rather than another, and, more importantly, working out a way to predict or measure the likelihood of people infected with the virus then passing it on to others.

The Malaysian virus, dubbed "Nipah" (pronounced "nee-pah") after a badly affected pig-rearing village where it was first detected, is related, but not identical, to the Hendra virus. That was identified only in 1994, when an outbreak in Australia led to the death of 13 racehorses and a trainer. In both cases, the reservoir is thought to be fruit bats, but the entire genetic blueprint (genome) of Nipah differs from that of Hendra by about 20 per cent. "It is quite different from the Hen-



So far, the Malaysian army has killed 800,000 pigs in an attempt to eradicate the Nipah virus

Vincent Thian/AP

dra virus," says Dr Brian Mahy, director of the division of viral and rickettsial diseases at the CDC. "So we have to assume that if it has been in a reservoir, then it has been there a long time."

Dr Mahy is one of the CDC team who are investigating the new virus, having been called in by the Malaysian government three weeks ago. They have already established that it affects not just human beings and pigs, but also dogs and goats; a dog was found dying from the infection. That fact alone makes the virus remarkable. "Infecting several different species is unusual; we don't see many that do that," he says.

Even so, the likelihood is that

since Nipah is so different from Hendra it must be very old, so people must have fallen ill with it in the past, according to David Onions, one of Britain's leading experts on zoonoses, who has spoken to the CDC team. "It has probably occurred before," he says, "but hasn't been noticed."

Indeed, zoonoses are nothing new. Ever since humans began domesticating animals such as cattle and dogs thousands of years ago, viruses have had increased opportunities to jump from one species of host to another. In many cases they cannot do so, or our defences fight them off easily. But in a few cases the reservoir animals (which

may not even develop symptoms) can pass on viruses that acquire lethal effect in human beings.

Research published earlier this year showed that HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus that leads to Aids, has for thousands of years crossed and re-crossed between humans and primates where it exists as SIV, simian immunodeficiency virus, in the central African jungles. The critical difference is that in this century international travel has allowed viruses to spread rapidly around the globe. In addition, rising populations have put increasing pressure on people in the Third World to encroach on tropical forests. This has inevitably

brought them closer to the viruses of wild animals.

"There are two kinds of zoonosis," explains Professor Onions. "The first is where the human is a dead-end host - an infected person cannot pass it on to another. The worrying other kind is where we can transmit it to other people. If you want a nightmare scenario, and for some reason some people do, the most dangerous kind of zoonosis would be from somebody going on an exotic holiday, catching a new disease with a long incubation period, and then becoming a blood donor. However, it is not very likely."

Other examples of zoonoses include influenza, in which the more

virulent forms (including the one that swept Britain earlier this year) often result from a "recombination", or muddle, of the virus genome within the reservoir population. "The thing about the influenza virus is that it has a segmented genome," says Dr Mahy. "It is broken up into eight parts, which can recombine in different orders in the reservoir animal to give more or less virulent forms. We can then catch it back, as in the case of Asian flu."

Pigs are almost the ideal host for viruses on the path towards zoonosis; they have many human-like characteristics, and even at the genetic level they share with human beings some strong similarities in

their immune system. "They have [cell] receptors for both bird and human viruses," explains Dr Mahy.

Professor Onions points out that certain types of virus are well-adapted to changing or mutating rapidly, notably those that use RNA - close cousin of DNA - as their genetic material. "The RNA viruses will change about one in every 10,000 nucleotides each time they reproduce. They also recombine very frequently. For flu [an RNA virus], pigs act like a mixing vessel for producing new forms of a virus."

The phrase for this phase is "amplification": having recombined, the virus can then pass between different animals, until its infectivity and virulence are sufficient for it to make the leap to a new species, whose cell receptors and machinery will differ in various ways from their existing host. The crucial question then becomes: how effectively can the newly infected human being's immune system cope with the threat from this new invader?

In the case of Nipah, those who have so far died or been infected have all been adult men who were in close contact with pigs. It has also infected 11 abattoir workers in Singapore - all of whom had handled imported pig meat from Malaysia. Killing the pigs is thus seen as the simplest means of wiping out the infection - even though the primary reservoir is the fruit bat.

Zoonoses often have serious knock-on effects besides the illnesses they cause: the Nipah epidemic has wrecked Malaysia's \$250m pork trade, and hit the tourism industry - though the CDC advises that visitors are unlikely to be endangered as long as they stay away from pig-breeding regions.

But what about the future? Should we expect more deadly zoonoses to spring up as international travel comes to more and more countries, and humans push further into previously untouched jungle, and live closer to animals?

"The idea of zoonosis is a very anthropomorphic view of life," says Professor Onions. "There are diseases that pass from cattle to sheep; there are some that pass from humans to animals. There's a tendency to think that what happens to us is special. But from an evolutionary viewpoint there's nothing special about this time. The fact is that most diseases we see now were probably zoonoses at some stage in their development - and we're still here."

## Scientists need to learn the ethics of science



LEWIS WOLPERT

WHY IS fraud in science receiving so much attention? I am not alone in having published results that later turned out to be wrong. It happens all the time, not only among lowly biologists but even among the high priests of particle physics. It is in the very nature of science that if there is error, it is corrected by the community. Any paper that makes a significant contribution will be checked by others when they make use of the results, and it is rare in the extreme for any one set of results to dominate a field.

Science progresses slowly by a remodelling of knowledge. While error can be disruptive in the short run, in the long term it is irrelevant; more than a million articles are published in scientific journals each year, but many are never quoted again and very few have a lifetime of more than 10 years in which they are repeatedly referred to.

While it is the ultimate corruption of the scientific endeavour to fabricate results, the effect on the progress of science is much less serious than might be thought - but it does undermine public confidence.

The current intense concerns about fraud come from Germany, where a young research worker has exposed one of the biggest cases in Europe. Germany had apparently thought it was immune from what it saw as an American scourge, because the incentive in the US to publish papers in order to advance your career is so strong.

The case involved two cancer research workers who had published widely, but 47 of their

papers were under suspicion. It is greatly to the credit of the young scientist that he exposed the fraud. It is usually the young who spot it - they are working at the bench and see what is recorded and published - but it can be difficult to point a finger at your superiors, in science or any other field.

In this case the young man was helped by his former supervisor at another institute. Should all institutes have some sort of ombudsman to whom young workers can go?

Sometimes there is the conviction that the scientist knows the right result, and although the results do not fit, they eventually will. The first report that mice had been cloned by the transfer of nuclei from embryonic cells was treated with suspicion when it was published, as long ago as 1981, and was then exposed by a student in the laboratory as a fraud. The scientist lost his job, but in the very same issue of *Nature* that carries a detailed analysis of fraud he writes a letter claiming that, since mice have recently been cloned, his original report was true.

Conviction can distort thinking. Indeed in many

scientific papers there is a temptation to massage the results, to put them in the best light and to exclude results that do not fit. A famous case is that of a scientist who earned a Nobel prize for his work on the charge on the electron - and when his laboratory notebooks were analysed it was found that he had discarded those results he did not like. He turned out to be right, but he was wrong not to report the anomalous results.

Another case involved a technician who, rather than tell his demanding boss that the cells he was culturing had stopped growing, renewed the cultures each time and so encouraged to the false idea, widely propagated in the Fifties, that cells could multiply indefinitely. Many scientific groups are now rather large, more than 30 workers, and this can make it difficult for the head of the group to keep track.

In this case the young man was helped by his former supervisor at another institute. Should all institutes have some sort of ombudsman to whom young workers can go?

In order to avoid such cases in future, Hood sits down and talks to those who have come to work with him and explains about the pressures to succeed and the temptations of fraud.

It seems a good way forward. Perhaps scientists need training in the ethics of science.

The writer is professor of biology as applied to medicine at University College London

## I think therefore I paint

Artists' thought processes, as well as the way they move their eyes and hands, are quite different from those of the rest of us. By Steve Connor

ARTISTS THROUGHOUT history have had a reputation for being unconventional. Now science seems to support this prejudice. A study of the way artists draw objects has shown that they really do use their bodies differently from the rest of us.

John Tchalenko, a former lecturer at Imperial College in London, has carried out the first detailed research into the movements and thought processes that underpin the way artists create impressions of the world they see. His results show that when it comes to drawing a picture, artists call upon quite novel ways of co-ordinating their hands, eyes and brains.

Dr Tchalenko approached the task with the help of two techniques and a long time friend the artist Humphrey Ocean. He used a device called an eye-tracker, which was able to plot the precise movements of Ocean's eyes as he drew a portrait. The second approach was to employ a brain-scanner to discover which parts of Ocean's brain became active during a drawing exercise.

"I'm interested in creativity, and the way that the visual input is transformed into the manual input - therein lies the creative process," Dr Tchalenko says.

Ocean was asked to draw a portrait while wearing the eye-tracker device - which looks like a bicycle helmet attached to space-age goggles - and the Sensorimotor Control Laboratory at Oxford University. Ocean wore the device for about 12 minutes at a time. A sensor recorded his hand movements, and how these were co-ordinated with the exact motions of his eyes. A non-artist carried out the same tasks for comparison.

Most people's eyes are continu-

ously moving in their sockets, at a rate of about 140 flickers a minute, in order constantly to shift the scene they are viewing over the central - and most sensitive - part of the retina. When non-artists were placed in the eye-tracker and asked to draw a face, they continued to follow this pattern, fixing their eyes on a particular spot on the face for about one third of a second.

Ocean's eye movements during drawing, however, were significantly different. From a fixation rate of 140 a minute he went down to about 10 or 12 fixations, each one lasting, of course, considerably longer. His eye movements over the face of the subject were also less erratic and more controlled. Ocean was moving his gaze at a speed estimated to be about 40km per second and he was able to fix his interest on a spot on the face with pinpoint accuracy - whereas the non-artist's gaze wandered all over the subject.

"It shows that an artist looks at a face methodically," Dr Tchalenko says. Ocean's hand movements were also significantly different from those of a non-artist. Ocean would move his hand several times over the paper before committing himself to drawing a line. It was as if he were rehearsing his actions.

The next phase of the study was to see how Ocean's brain was working during the drawing process. For this, he was placed in a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scanner at Stanford University in California. While lying in the scanner, Ocean was asked to draw portraits from six photographs and six geometric figures. Subtracting the brain activity used in one activity from that used in the other should yield the mental activity needed to portray a face. The results show a clear difference from the way non-artists draw faces.

The visual information from the eye enters the visual centres at the back of the brain in both artists and non-artists, and then travels forward to the frontal areas of the cerebral cortex - the "higher" centres, which are involved in more abstract thought processes.

"In Humphrey's case, activation occurred in the right frontal region of the brain, whereas in the non-artist controls it occurred in the posterior region. It appears that Humphrey was 'thinking' the portraits, while the controls were slavishly copying them," Dr Tchalenko says.

The study, which is described in an exhibition opening today at the National Portrait Gallery in London, clearly indicates that artists have learned to use their brains, as well as their hands and eyes, quite differently from the rest of us. Dr Tchalenko says that the next step in the research would be to see how art students learn this skill over a period of years.

*The Painter's Eye*, sponsored by the Wellcome Trust, can be seen at the National Portrait Gallery, London from today. Admission is free.



Portraits by the artist: the efforts of the painter Humphrey Ocean revealed the distinctive qualities of his brain activity

This week, Sir Cameron Mackintosh snaffled two West End theatres from under the nose of his biggest rival. Could this mean war? And how will the map of theatreland be redrawn as a consequence? By David Lister

# Oh, what a lovely carve up!

**Y**ou may consider Sir John Gielgud to be the most important theatrical figure alive in Britain. But last week the West End theatre bearing his name was bought and sold without his knowledge.

Two days ago Stoll Moss, the company that until that moment owned the Gielgud, and is still the biggest player in West End theatre, held a board meeting. Its chair, the Australian multimillionaire Janet Holmes à Court, was at home in Perth, Western Australia, but she took part in the meeting by video-conferencing, probably issuing one of her hearty chuckles as they discussed how one of her closest friends, Cameron Mackintosh, had outbid her to take both the Gielgud Theatre and its Shaftesbury Avenue neighbour the Queens, from under her nose.

But the chuckle would have been tinged with annoyance. Stoll Moss didn't know until very late in the day that Mackintosh was bidding against them. And the loss of the Gielgud would have hurt the estimable Mrs Holmes à Court. In renaming the former Globe Theatre after Britain's greatest living actor, she had made the first of several gestures that convinced an initially sceptical British theatre establishment that she was not some philistine interloper.

By insisting that new work, such as Mark Ravenhill's *Shopping and Fucking* and Ben Elton's *Popcorn*, be programmed at some of her Shaftesbury Avenue theatres, she had further surprised and delighted the cynics. In addition, she broke with a longstanding tradition: that of theatre owners' ingrained lack of concern for audiences' comfort. She put money into an extensive renovation programme and built more ladies' lavatories in her theatres.

Now two of the prime ones will be lost to her when her lease runs out in 2006. She has, admittedly, had other things on her mind. Mrs Holmes à Court - widow of the Australian property magnate Robert Holmes à Court and, like her late husband, a land- and cattle owner in Australia - is now being touted as Australia's first republican president. Opinion polls have made her the people's choice if referendums show that the country wants to become a republic.

Such is the calibre of the people who for some reason or other enjoy running London's theatres - traditionally, a sure-fire way of losing money. One of Mrs Holmes à Court's closest associates confirmed yesterday that even if she becomes president of Australia there is no way that she will give up her theatre interests in Britain.

Australia's first republican president may forgo riding in state along the Mall; she certainly isn't going to miss a first night at the London Palladium. But that's not her

most pressing concern. Whether or not the Queen loses Australia, Australia's potential new president has lost the Queens.

Sir Cameron put in a £15m bid for the leasehold of it and the Gielgud. Stoll Moss were not prepared to match it. It didn't make business sense. True, little that goes on in theatre does. And if there is one man in the West End who defines philanthropy it is Cameron Mackintosh, who, for instance, has recently given Lionel Bart a share of royalties in the latest production of *Oliver!*, donated money to the National Theatre to put on musicals, and set up a chair of contemporary theatre at Oxford University. But, even by the sentimental business rules of Shaftesbury Avenue, it was hard to understand what Mackintosh was up to.

Richard Johnston, the chief executive of Stoll Moss, said yesterday: "Clearly we would like to have acquired the theatres at a price we think sensible. We're quite relaxed about it because in our view it's impossible to get a return for what Cameron has

theatre after seeing *West Side Story* as a boy. Cameron has exactly the same feeling, after seeing *Salad Days*."

Mackintosh's business associate for the last 20 years has been Martin McCallum, now managing director of Cameron Mackintosh's theatrical empire. "It makes sense for the company to invest in what it understands, which is theatres," McCallum says.

"We'll be involved in programming, and Cameron will have a hand in it."

Another West End theatre magnate, who does not wish to be named, is more blunt. "It is some years since Cameron had his last musical blockbuster with *Martin Guerre* in London. The bad reviews and early closure of *Martin Guerre* in London have hurt him enormously. He craves another big success. His producing interests are slowing

down. But he has a substantial fortune (£350m). What does he do with it? He has one overwhelming interest - the theatre."

And so Mackintosh the producer is turning into Mackintosh the owner and programmer. While his musical tastes may have been traditional, the straight plays he wants in his theatres could be anything but. Martin McCallum again: "Cameron knows that the important thing about programming is to be in touch with what the public want.

paid for these businesses. But he may have a different agenda."

Exactly. What is clear is that he can no longer be considered as just a producer and champion of musicals. He already part-owns theatres, including The Strand, the Prince Edward and the Prince of Wales. But all are showing musicals. From *Buddy* to *Mamma Mia!* they all proclaim Mackintosh's first love.

In acquiring the Gielgud and Queens he now owns theatres unsuited to staging full-blown musicals. What's more, he has bought the whole block of adjoining property. Theatregoers will be able to have a drink in a Cameron Mackintosh pub, go next door to watch a Cameron Mackintosh production and discuss it over a meal at a Cameron Mackintosh restaurant.

Musically, Mackintosh is a traditionalist who has championed revivals of *Old Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady* and *Carousel*, and was originally turned on to the genre by the most kitsch musical of them all. As his fellow producer Bill Kenwright points out: "I became infatuated with

**Cameron Mackintosh**  
The 52-year-old universally popular producer began his career sweeping the stage during the sixties production of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* By the Nineties the massively successful musical impresario was able to re-stage *Oliver!* and give Bart a share of the royalties. He lives with his partner Michael, a photographer. No rivalry between Mackintosh and Andrew Lloyd Webber just the odd coincidence such as a 50th birthday tribute evening to Lloyd Webber at the Royal Albert Hall, followed by a show called *Hey Mr Producer* at the Royal Albert Hall, a tribute to Cameron Mackintosh.

**Andrew Lloyd Webber**  
The 51-year-old composer is the only one of the three players with party-political leanings. He was ennobled by John Major. His music has been used in a Conservative election campaign. Stylish and sensitive to criticism, he remains unchallenged as the most popular musical composer of the age. His business ventures took a downturn recently as some of his shows abroad closed at theatres built specifically for them. But he is still the toast of the coach parties in Britain, and could always gamble some of the losses on the horses owned by his delightful and down-to-earth third wife, Madeleine.

**Janet Holmes à Court**  
The 55-year-old widow of Robert Holmes à Court has a vivacious informality that is not always common among owners of massive business empires. Her theatres jostle for her attention with transport, property and beef companies. The favourite to become Australia's first republican president, she is also passionate about, and involved in, improving the quality of children's television, and she chairs the Australian Children's TV Foundation. Female theatregoers should salute her: one of her priorities has been increasing the number of ladies' lavatories in West End theatres.

theatre after seeing *West Side Story* as a boy. Cameron has exactly the same feeling, after seeing *Salad Days*."

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**David Benedict**

Booking: 0171-369 1731. A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

## Jackson Pollock at the Tate

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## Too much, too soon

### THEATRE

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER  
COMEDY THEATRE  
LONDON

THE GRAND Guignol opening of Sean Mathias's revival of Tennessee Williams's 1957 play augurs well. There's a deafening crack of thunder and the curtain rises on a highly stylised vision of a Southern Gothic mansion. We see, caught in the lightning, its fierce mistress, Violet Venable.

Suddenly Last Summer is uniquely pitched between the concision of a short story and the high drama of a one-act opera and Mathias quite rightly leans towards the latter. The mounting tensions of this tale about what really happened to Violet's handsome son Sebastian, who died in seemingly inexplicable circumstances, move beyond consciously overripe drama into a realm of truly violent emotions, intense even by Williams's standards.

Violet has summoned a doctor to witness the "truth" surrounding her son's death. Last summer, her place on their annual holiday was taken by Sebastian's beautiful cousin Catherine who, ever since, has



been babbling her version of events. As a result she has been incarcerated in an asylum at Violet's expense. The dramatic stakes rise with the entrance of every character; all of them have vested interests in suppressing Catherine's story, not least Violet who, we discover, is hell-bent on persuading the doctor to perform a lobotomy.

The linguistic rhythms of the play demand an almost architectural control of structure, but Mathias has focused on encouraging his cast to mine the script for the emotional subtext. This can pay huge dividends, as in his controversial interpretation of Coward's

plan to steal over you. Gish reveals her true nature and self-delusions from the outset, thus robbing us of Williams's surprise shift of sympathies. As Catherine, Rachel Weisz takes her place in the sun with a powerful rendition of the full-blown aria that is the tremendously demanding final speech, but she too is cast adrift by the production. Sebastian used her to procure men, but Weisz cannot suggest Catherine's former power as, largely because of Tim Hatley's awkward design, her costume and wig fail to emphasise her beauty. Also, his replacement of Williams's suggested visual lushness with monstrous, parched symbols of death anticipates the play's climax at the expense of the earlier action.

Gore Vidal once wrote of Williams: "The best of his plays are as permanent as anything can be in the age of Kleenex." Although he is unlikely to have meant *Suddenly Last Summer*, it is potentially more exciting than this misjudged revival suggests.

DAVID BENEDICT

Booking: 0171-369 1731. A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

## ARTS DIARY

DAVID LISTER

THE EVER-enterprising Almeida Theatre, which presents *Cate Blanchett* next week in David Hare's *Plenty*, is already working on its next coup. Ralph Fiennes has been approached by Almeida's director Jonathan Kent to reunite the partnership that produced a triumphant *Hamlet* a few years ago.

Fiennes is keen to star in a Shakespeare season.

Playing two roles, one will certainly be Richard II, a part the actor was born to play. The other role being considered is Coriolanus. I caught sight of Fiennes down at Shepperton film studios, where shooting has begun on Neil Jordan's film of Graham Greene's *The End of the Affair*. Greene's classic tale of adulterous passions and Catholic repressions is a departure for Jordan, but a book that the Greene admires has long wanted to film.

Fiennes, who recently finished shooting the movie of *Eugene Onegin*, directed by his sister Martha, will star in *The End of the Affair* opposite Julianne Moore (right). Moore, who gives a delightfully comic

performance as a scheming blackmailer in the new film of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, was one of the stars of the film not to make it to the premiere of the movie on Monday. She probably had good reasons, but it was disappointing that Cate Blanchett also failed to turn up the day after winning a Best Actress Bafta. Pressure of work, ie daytime rehearsals for *Plenty*, was the last-minute reason apparently. There's an easy option, Cate. Turn up, give the crowds a thrill and the

producers some

publicity, enter the cinema, drop a curtain, then leave through a side entrance and have an early night. You won't be the first star to do exactly that.

Though in fact, the film was so

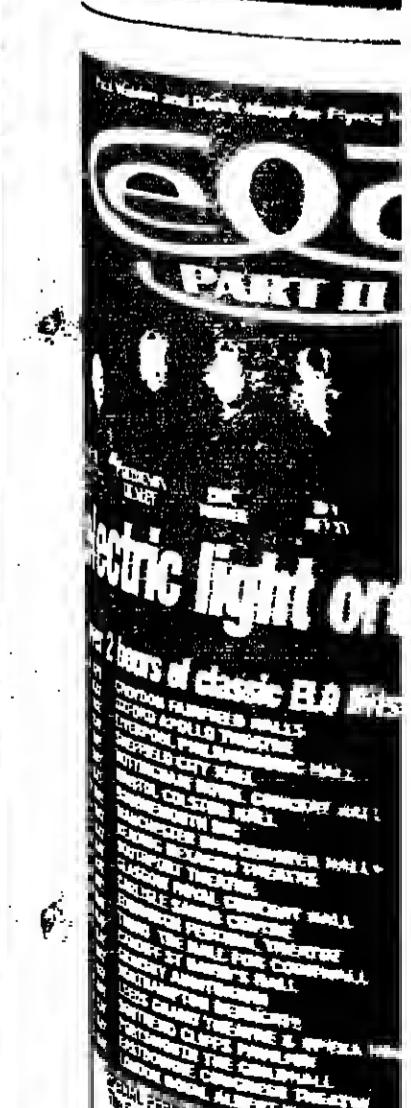
entertaining you might have been tempted to stay.

Back to the

Baftas, there was

one memorable

moment, at least



for those of us fortunate enough to be seated next to Gwyneth Paltrow's table. When host Ross made his little joke, "Where would we be without an audience - starring in *The Avengers* probably", Miss Paltrow, after a gasp of astonishment, could not contain herself and collapsed in near-hysterics. The joke wasn't that funny - unless of course, like Miss Paltrow, you had been wise enough to turn down a starring role in the flop.

Michael Kaiser, executive director of the Royal Opera House, had a typically neat, diplomatic turn of phrase when I asked him about the infamous "dropping" of the ballerina Viviana Durante by Bruce Sansom in a rehearsal, which led to a bout of bad relations between Miss Durante and the company. "He did not drop her," Mr Kaiser replied sternly. "He put her down with excessive energy."

### INFORMATION

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# MUSIC

## Pills, thrills and tax bills

The Happy Mondays are back and about to hit the road. A cynical Madchester cash-in? Not at all, says Shaun Ryder, it's just that it's taken everyone else 10 years to catch up with us. (OK, yeah... we need the money.) By Fiona Sturges

**T**he first thing that you notice about Shaun Ryder is how people around him perk up. The rest of the band had been ruefully nursing colds with bottles of beer throughout their

rehearsal, but following his entrance they were cackling at one another and planning the evening's entertainment. It is as if the birthday boy has finally arrived at the party.

What's more, he looks distinctly cheerful, bounding into the frame for the first round of photographs and warmly hugging his friends. This is not the snarling villain that I had expected to encounter. This man looks... well, straight.

"I am," he says, beaming. "Look. I can prove it."

Ryder pulls up his shirt and thrusts a great white belly in my direction. "Can you see the marks?" he says, pointing just beneath his bellybutton. Marks? "The marks from my implants." I beg your pardon?

"They put implants in my stomach so that if I have any opiates I get sick. Instant cold turkey," he explains. After a couple of months they wear off so I've had 12 months' worth put in. I don't get a craving or anything. I'm just a pisshead now."

After 15 years of heroin abuse, the frontman of the Happy Mondays has lost count of how many times he has been in rehab, though he insists that his brother, Paul, and drummer Gaz Whelan have suffered most since the Mondays broke up. The younger Ryder has had two nervous breakdowns since 1993 while Whelan has undergone prolonged treatment for "stress-related" complaints.

I approached this interview with some trepidation. The Happy Mondays always knew how to make journalists sweat. They were behaving badly long before style mags made it OK for boys to behave badly. They made the boorish conduct of fellow Man-utians Oasis seem pitifully small beer.

"Usually, we bring the band to London," says their PR. "That way, they are easier to control." This doesn't bode well seeing as I'm interviewing them at their Stockport rehearsal studio. Worse still, their last interview – to which they arrived 24 hours late – saw Ryder in a semi-comatose state and sporadically forgetting his whereabouts.

Today though, Ryder is razor-sharp. In fact, he is unstoppable. "I've written a movie called *Molly's Isle* which is going into production next month," he boasts, adopting a faux-posh accent. "I'm acting, doing a bit of music and helping with the directing. I'm doing the tour with the Happy Mondays and a column in *The Sport*. Oh, and I've just got divorced."

Ryder's divorce is crucial to today's assembly of people. That and "a fucking great tax bill". A messy split with Orla Leitch, daughter of Sixties folk veteran Donovan,



Ryder has had implants put in his stomach to help him stay off heroin. "If I have any opiates, I get sick. Instant cold turkey"

Martin Rickett

has left Ryder with no house and thousands of pounds in bills. Then came the tax bill. "It's fuckin' cleaned me out," he cries. Consequently, when "some daft sod" suggested that Ryder start up the Happy Mondays again, it was an offer that he couldn't refuse.

Four of the old members – the Ryder brothers, Whelan, plus their maraca-wielding mascot Bez – are back in the fold, though original guitarist Mark Day and keyboardist Paul Davis are conspicuous absences. New recruits include Black Grape's Paul Wagstaff, keyboardist Ben Leach (ex-The Farm) and a softly spoken singer known as Nuts. Just three weeks away from the beginning of the tour, the band are still trying to track down lost samples, re-arrange old tracks and re-learn some of the 15-year-old songs. In short, it's a revival.

We are disrupted by a commotion at the door and Bez's distinctive vowel sounds. "Can anyone give us a tenner for a cab?" The atmosphere in the studio becomes even more excitable as Bez shows off his Adidas-sponsored threads to his pals.

In his teens Bez, aka Mark Berry, says he was "robbing, partying and being a general pain in the arse". It wasn't until he met Ryder in the mid-Eighties that he became Bez and mutated into the hyperactive cartoon dancer whose pendulous elbows, knock knees andoggle eyes became the band's trademark. Bez was also the last to rejoin the band. Word has it that it took over £50,000 to twist his arm. "Jobseeker's Allowance was on me case trying to get me to do some warehouse work," he explains. "Shifting boxes of beans or something, so I thought I'd be-

ter do the Mondays thing instead."

The Happy Mondays embraced the drug-addled euphoria of the late-Eighties and were the first band to successfully put dance music in the live arena. Their rough-edged funk and infectious house rhythms, at their best on their 1990 album *Pills, Thrills and Bellyaches*, brought swathes of devout rockers into the rave scene. Tony Wilson, the band's label boss, even claimed that Ryder was the most important poet since Keats. While that point is debatable, it was certainly down to the Happy Mondays that Manchester was baptised "Madchester", with the first of the "superclubs", the Hacienda, becoming their hallowed playground.

They also come equipped with a colourful history. Stories of racketeering, spells in prison and a Herculean drug intake cir-

culated during the band's heyday in the late-Eighties, mostly spread by the members themselves. This is the band that boasted to the press about their gangster connections and bought instruments with money earned from selling drugs.

Why did they start the Mondays in the first place?

"We needed something to do in the afternoon," explains Ryder. "We found an opportunity to get into the music business and it seemed a good way to have a laugh. If we could possibly make a decent tune while we were doing it, then cool."

Even with their debauched lifestyles, the Happy Mondays were hailed as working-class heroes, lovable hooligans who could do no wrong. Their drug habits were seen as essential to their art. It was Bez's ill-judged comments about homosexual-

ity that first turned the tide of public opinion against them, though he cites other causes.

"It became a nasty little business operation, something had to give, somewhere." Meltdown finally occurred in 1992 with an ill-fated trip to Barbados where the band were recording a new album, *Yes Please*. Ryder, already battling with his heroin dependency, descended into full-blown crack addiction and took to selling pieces of their recording equipment for instant cash. The subsequent album was received so disastrously that the band's label, Factory Records, filed for bankruptcy. After a similarly catastrophic tour in 1993, the band went their separate ways.

With their legendary status as drug-users, gangsters and all-round bad boys, the Happy Mondays are perhaps the least likely candidates to join the cavalcade of comebacks. So far, revival tours from such Eighties luminaries as Culture Club, ABC, and the Human League were little more than cabaret acts. And even in the age of compulsory retro, we would be hard put to feel nostalgic over a band that still get played on the radio.

"Yeah, but this is different," says Ryder. Why?

"Cos we were 10 years ahead of our time. Everyone else is up to speed, now."

He has a point. The Happy Mondays blurred the boundaries between rock and dance long before The Chemical Brothers turned dance tunes into rock anthems. *Pills, Thrills and Bellyaches* emerged three years before Primal Scream's *Screamadelica*, often cited as the most important rock-dance album of the Nineties. The Mondays were also one of the first live dance bands to reach *Top Of The Tops*.

Ryder is keen to point out that they are not just recycling old material. "We're using some of the remixes we did in the late-Eighties, but we are doing lots of new ones. We've got a new single coming out and we've also got Nuts in to do some singing to make it more interesting."

Another album? "If we do another one, there will be a different set of rules, such as everyone gets out of the way and lets me get on with it."

This is the first glimpse that I have had of the old Ryder – stubborn and impossibly egotistical. But these aren't the Happy Mondays that we used to know. These are the rehabilitated, reconstructed version, out to make a fast buck before retiring to nice houses in Manchester's suburbs. This isn't the Happy Mondays, this is a business opportunity. And a sure-fire one at that.

The Happy Mondays play Hereford Leisure Centre on 21 April; Manchester Evening News Arena, 23 April; Glasgow SECC 24, 25 April; Brixton Academy 27, 28, 29 April

### THE INFORMATION DAILY

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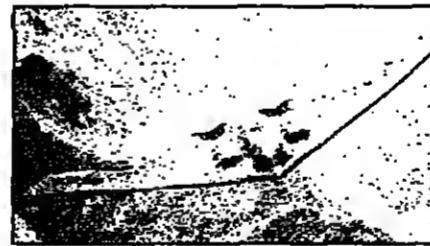
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### LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

The US military recently requested permission to use Blur's 'Song 2' to unveil their latest 'stealth' bomber but were turned down by the band. The song has given Blur their biggest US hit to date and was recently used in an episode of 'The Simpsons'



### Song 2 / Wah-Hoo

But seriously,  
What do you say  
The day the Pentagon phones up  
To say they like the vibrant sound  
Of some song on your last CD  
And do you think there's any way,  
(a pause for breath here and a comma)  
That they could use this groovy tune  
To help unveil their latest bomber?

D'you ask,  
"Which aeroplane is that then?  
Could it be the one we saw  
In big dark pieces on the floor  
A handsome woman dancing on  
As if it were some hootenanny  
A local village christening feast  
Where life continued as before  
And not the outset of a war?"

Or do you ask,  
"Which song is that then?"  
And make the six-star general sing  
The main riff down the phone at you  
And get him to re-sing, "Wah-hoo!"  
Until you're sick from giggling  
And say it's not a disc you made  
And is he absolutely sure?  
Then pass him on to Pulp or Suede?

Or do you say,  
"How much then, mush,  
To advertise this piece of kit?"  
Vorsprung durch technik on the base  
Vorsprung zu chetnik in this case  
But teething troubles put aside  
A Pentagon/Pop Interface...  
How far d'you think the thing might go?  
Not very far boys. Just say no.

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TOM WAITS

Mule Variations Epitaph

ON HIS first album in seven years, Tom Waits surrounds himself with blues players - the guitarist John Hammond Jr, the blues-harpist Charlie Musselwhite, the former Cannibal Heat bassist Larry Taylor - and gets back to the land. *Mule Variations* is a Route 66 record in a freeway world, intent on summoning the ghosts of a disappearing rural past, replete with their local mythologies and suspicions. It generally proceeds at a slower pace than we're used to travelling in today's shiny pop vehicles, and the chrome is heavily pockmarked with the tarnish of generations past.

At times the sense of decay is so palpable, you wonder whether your CD player should be fitted with a cat's whisker. But for all its lovingly distressed antiquity, it retains more life than the average shopping mall, inhabited as it is by the characterful hobos of "Pony" and "Cold Water", and carry geeks such as the "Eyeball Kid", a monocular monstrosity who "came down to teach us how to really see". The cranky, croaky blues "Get Behind the Mule" is the pivotal piece, an evocation of rural unease populated by such as Beatty, Jack the Cutler and Jimmy the Harp. "Got to get behind the mule in the morning and plow," Waits recommends as Musselwhite's harp



walls low in the distance, before going on to offer more cryptic (and less useful) advice along the lines of "Pin your ear to the wisdom post, pin your eye to the line".

There's a convincing tang of country apocrypha about the song, a blend of the surreal and rural which Waits himself has tagged "Surreal". It's present, too, in pieces like "Lowside of the Road", where

bespoke percussion instruments such as the chumbus and the dousengoni (who knows?) scatter potholes of awkward rhythm in the song's path, forcing it across the sunny side of the street; and in the bizarre theological confection "Chocolate Jesus", which, recorded al fresco, includes a faint cock-crow, like a watermark of rural authenticity.

Alongside these windblown, weatherbeaten husks are songs that hark back to other Waits compositions - "Hold On" is a first cousin to "Downtrain Train", "Cold Water" a less sentimental "On the Nickel". But they're set seamlessly within the flow of the album, like familiar footmarks to help listeners through a path overgrown with weeds. The result is another landmark album from one of modern music's most valuable talents - a man who, like the lover in "Black Market Baby", is "a diamond that wants to stay coal".

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CATATONIA  
Equally Cursed and Blessed  
Blanco Y Negro

CERYS MATTHEWS has the kind of voice you either love or hate, and for me her Olive Oyl-with-attitude whine is, I admit, the closest thing to nails scraping down a blackboard. Perhaps that's what they mean by *Equally Cursed and Blessed*: they run the risk of her idiosyncratic voice repulsing potential listeners, but without it, well, they're pretty much indistinguishable from the multitude of lower-division indie Brit-poppers. It's touch and go whether last season's promotion run can be sustained another year, for this is a very dull record, its bland melange of organ, guitar and electric piano straining to cover all available bases, but with little distinction. The stridency of the Eartha Kitt of the Valleys is softened by the inclusion of strings on some tracks, but there's little improvement in the Catatonia compositional style: the album is so freighted with terrible puns, it's sometimes hard to tell if these are songs at all. "Make hay not war"; "custard's last stand"; "L'ado never sleeps, it just sucks"; "Her treasured chest was sunken". It's like hearing tracks entirely composed of *NME* headlines.

...AND OTHER ALBUM RELEASES  
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL

TOM PETTY &  
THE HEARTBREAKERS  
Echo  
Warner Bros

"IT'S THE same as the same sad echo as before," sings Tom Petty on the title-track of this latest collection, his first since the *She's The One* soundtrack from 1996. He's not wrong, either: there's something warm and comforting about Petty's wry melancholy, one of rock's most dependable attitudes. The album marks a return to his forte of songs which, like the album logo, look both ways at once. Whether he's tempering a tale of struggle with a laconic aside like "She went down swingin' - like Glenn Miller", or balancing the benefits of extroversion and isolation in "Room At The Top", he has the uncanny ability to sketch both sides of a story, or sentiment, with enviable equanimity. He's particularly adept at conveying the cyclical nature of emotions, as in both "Echo" and the admirably upbeat depression song "Won't Last Long". The Heartbreakers are as reliably modest as ever, save for the occasional Mike Campbell solo like the dervish guitar fill in "Room At The Top". All in all, Petty's best since he joined Warners.



ULTRASOUND  
Everything Picture  
Nude

SOMETIMES, SIZE isn't everything, particularly when it takes a band 88 minutes to traverse a mere 11 songs. Last year's next big thing, Ultrasound have finally got around to releasing their debut album at least six months too late, and as if to compensate for having gone well beyond their sell-by date, they've made possibly this year's most irritating package - from the ugly sleeve that confounds one's attempt to extricate the two CDs, to Tiny Wood's grandiose whine, the title track's laughably "climactic" 20-minute noise-scape, lyrics which depict rock'n'roll in terms of "naked pagan glory", and pervasive melodic strings which summon hideous ghosts of early King Crimson and ELP (not heretofore regarded as particularly naked, pagan or glorious). For all their vaunting ambition and glam aspirations - trying to grasp the fluttering coat-tails of Suede and Pulp, perhaps? - Ultrasound's music is little more than pomp-rock stodge with eyeliner, and as one horribly over-egged pudding of a song follows another, one can't help but fret over the future of British pop. Is this all there is?



ADD N TO (X)  
Avant Hard  
Mute

ADD N TO (X), it's claimed, take their name from a computer command that "creates an unknown third electronic force", whatever that means. Certainly, this second album shows them to be excessively smitten by the quasi-futurist allure of analogue synthesizers, which they wield with scant regard for either fun or fashion. It's a noisy job, but someone's got to do it. They're not, however, as pointlessly purist as some of their peers: rather than rely solely on electronically generated rhythms, breakbeats abound beneath judicious electric motors such as "FYUZ" and the single "Metal Fingers In My Body". They're not averse to the odd sample staining their shapey sine-waves either, most intriguingly on "Ann's Eveready Equestrian". Elsewhere, the cacophonous "Revenge of the Black Regent" grows from glacial tones into a stately military tattoo, while "Buckminster Fuller" sounds like an explosion in a siren factory. The fey female vocals soften their impact, in kitsch Stereolab style, but there seems little place for fleshly folk. The machines appear to be enjoying themselves, though.

## B is for Bunnymen... and Bacharach

THE NEW Echo & The Bunnymen album is a brave move forward, a disavowal of the band's grand past for simple statements of ageing and regret. Unfortunately, they have also abandoned rock'n'roll in favour of pretty but unthrilling Bacharachian pop that suits the singer Ian McCulloch's increasing desire to croon like Sinatra. But it ignores his band's greatest achievement in their unlikely comeback two years ago - their honing of songs old and new during relentless touring, till

the Bunnymen who blinked back into the spotlight at Cream in 1997 had achieved a force and majesty live which few could equal. The difference between a drunk McCulloch debuting the new album's title song, "What Are You Going to Do With Your Life?", as a taunting accusation to his thirtysomething crowd at their last headline show a year ago, and its mood of middle-aged acceptance on record, tells a disappointing story. The quiet retirement of the bassist Les Pat-

tinson between tours, leaving only McCulloch and Will Sergeant, invites a further question: Are Echo & The Bunnymen really still a band - or the name that ritually validates McCulloch, the Voice?

LIVE  
ECHO AND THE  
BUNNYMEN  
MAYFAIR  
NEWCASTLE

When they take to the stage, cruising on the crowd's good humour after the Newcastle FA Cup semi-final win earlier, such worries at first seem ill-founded. McCulloch swaggerers into view from a swirl of dry ice, with ash hanging delicately from a cigarette, swathed in shiny black leather, more the perfect rock star than he's ever been before. Will Sergeant strums on his left, hidden by his fringe, and who cares? Snake-dancing and sneaking drinks from the crowd, McCulloch's recent claim

that he is the Bunnymen seems less a boast than a lucky fact.

He hones in on established hits. The crowd, almost all old enough to remember the Bunnymen's heyday, danced the way they are supposed to, and watch the band do their memories justice. By "Bring On the Dancing Horses", the crowd are hurling the lyrics back, rolling back the years. The potency of old songs seems freeze-dried. But of course, for any man who believes in his future, that can never be enough.

NICK HASTED McCulloch: brave move forward



## Dark side of the moon

Luna make beautiful but disturbing records. But luck isn't on their side. Elektra have dropped their latest album in the States. And now they risk being upstaged by Sheryl Crow... By Kevin Harley

GOOD LUCK seems to elude Luna. Formed by Dean Wareham when he deserted the gorgeous Galaxie 500 in 1991, the New York four-piece have spread their vapour trails of spiky-sweet guitar pop and Velvets-styled sonic fidgeting across five albums already. Even so, they're still best known for their consistent cover version of Serge Gainsbourg's "Bonnie and Clyde", released back in 1995.

A tale of woe spins out from another Luna cover version. Like alchemists, they've turned the paunchy rock squeal of "Guns n' Roses' "Sweet Child O'Mine" into a lightly sozzled dance track kept standing by a big drum.

Luna recorded it for a B-side, but their US label, Elektra, insisted that they put it on their new fifth album, *Days of Our Nights*.

"Now they're not even putting our album out," Wareham spits. "Dropped, man! They said it's not commercially viable. We wanted out of Elektra a while ago, partly because of this mountain of fake debt that they slapped on us. And it is fake! But the timing is bad because we'd serviced the album to the press."

It isn't Wareham's first acrimonious break-up, given that his split from Galaxie 500 was not exactly amicable. These days he communicates only by fax with his former colleagues Damon Krukowski and Naomi Yang.

"They think I ruined their lives because of ego and money," he sneers, before adding wistfully: "It may have been ego. It certainly wasn't money."

Despite jolting basing their latest album's title on a soap opera, Luna's tensions seem to stay in the music. Their slow-burning, quintessentially New York brand of quiet melodrama fine-tunes that seductive,



Luna: the best unknown band on Earth

haunting clash between nimble surfaces and vivid instrumentation. Even a lucid wisp of a song such as "Seven Steps to Satan" cloaks the unholy coupling of a waltz guitar with the digital Talkbox. Elsewhere, a choir haunts Wareham's ghostly croon thanks to the bassist, multi-instrumentalist and ex-Chills man Justin Harwood.

"Justin played the choir with his finger," Dean deadpans. "It's a sample."

Likewise, poking into Wareham's opaque lyrics can be like finding acid in your ice-cream. What sound like prisms for benevolent and gaucha fragments - a quote

cuted and he wanted her to die too, but she didn't. I hope she doesn't come after us!"

It isn't much of a worry, given Luna's bittersweet position as, in the words of *Rolling Stone*, "the best band in the world that no one has ever heard of".

Still, Wareham's quirky lyrics do boast a handle of nascent neuroses. When his band mate Sean Eden needles him about being a hypochondriac, you wonder whether Woody Allen could have turned out like Wareham, had he nurtured a Lou Reed fixation and a smoulder to match. "I am not a hypochondriac," Wareham says, tetchily: "I just don't like being near sick people when we're out on tour."

His paranoia is understandable, given the misfortunes heaped on his band. Take their extracurricular money-splurging. Scoring a TV commercial and covering Donovan's "Season of the Witch" for the film *Shot of Andy Warhol* went fine. But they also scored films destined for bargain-bin oblivion: *Mr Jealousy*, anyone? *Thursday?* "That was frustrating," Eden snorts, "because we did some good music, I thought Thursday would be cool because it had Mickey Rourke in it. It was terrible!"

Still, they could release "Sweet Child O'Mine", once they get a US label. That sold copies the first time round. "We would need to bury," groans Wareham, "because Sheryl Crow is doing it for a movie sound-track. People would think we copied her."

Somewhat, you suspect that the terminally undervalued Luna deserve better than that.

*"Days of Our Nights"* is out on Beggars Banquet on 4 May. *"Superfreaky Memories"* is out now.

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MEGASTORES



JP 300 150



# The fabulous Baker boy

Ginger Baker found fame in the blues-rock behemoth Cream, but now the legendary drummer has returned to his jazz roots. And discovered a passion for polo. By Kevin Le Gendre

**I**t's one of the most intriguing tunes of the year so far. The basic time signature is a tease 9/8 but there's a 12/8 theme running underneath. Three horns, including a hefty haritone sax, make soulful, gospel-tinged statements over the strange, seductive beat. The unusual combination of textures is completed by two sniping guitars, one of which, a twanging pedal steel, gives the music a languid, bluegrass overtone. The whole weird and wonderful piece is propelled by light but decisive drumming. The tune is "Ginger Spice". The drummer is Ginger Baker. "Ron Miles, the trumpeter in my band, wrote that song for me! He'd never even heard of the Spice Girls before," says Baker, the man most will recognise as one third of the blues rockers Cream. "Ginger Spice" is one of several outstanding tracks from *Coward of the County*, arguably his best album to date.

"I turned up at rehearsal and saw these two guitars. One was country & western and the other straight, and I was like, 'what's going on here?' Then I saw the parts for 'Ginger Spice'. I wasn't sure how it was gonna work but when we started to play it all clicked. Ron Miles is an amazing musician."

Granted, but he'd never heard of The Spice Girls. Had he been living on Mars? Not quite. Denver, Colorado, in fact. Which is where Miles and the other talented yet unknown members of the DJQ20 (Denver Jazz Quintet To Octet) met Baker in 1995. An odd place for Baker to end up, you may think. After all, this is the Londoner who's lived in Florence and California, a rock star who, alongside the guitar hero Eric Clapton and the bassist Jack Bruce, shot to fame in Sixties London.

The combo lasted only a couple of years, but songs such as "Sunshine of Your Love" and "Tales of Brave Ulysses" have assured them a place in rock folklore. Post-Cream, Baker recorded with all sorts, including Steve Winwood and Rick Grech. He then founded his own groups - Airforce and Energy - in the Seventies. Towards the end of the decade, the Lewisham-born drummer decided to reinvent himself - as a polo player. Old drummers never put down their sticks; they just pick up bigger ones and mount horses. "I moved to Colorado in the mid-Nineties and we started this polo and jazz gig in Denver," he says. "We'd play polo till sunset, then play music with the DJQ20, pulling in 1,000 people sometimes."

Not everybody was hip to Denver's polo and jazz scene, though. Baker's record label, Atlantic, wanted him to do another CD with big names such as Bill Frisell and Charlie Haden, with whom he'd made two excellent albums, *Going Back Home and Falling off the Roof*, a few years ago. DJQ meant nothing outside Denver.

"I said, 'look, I've got this incredible band in Denver', and they just didn't believe me. They really didn't," chuckles Baker. To convince the sceptics, the DJQ20 did a week at the Iridium club in New York. "We blew everybody away. It was jampacked. We got rave reviews across the board. So after that the record company were like, 'yeah, let's do the album'."

Jazz is nothing new for Baker. At 16, he got a job with a London trad group, the Storyville Jazz band and in 1960, he was a regular member of the house band at Ronnie Scott's. Yet he also had an interest in blues and rock. After joining the influential Alexis Korner band in 1962, he moved on to the Graham Bond trio a couple of years later, where he met Jack Bruce. Clapton used to sit in on jam sessions.

Cream went on to achieve major success, part of a pioneering wave of genre-bending musicians such as Steve Winwood, Jeff Beck and Jimi Hendrix. But the band was never a *raison d'être* for Baker. "It's become an albatross around my neck," he says. "Every couple of years I'll get someone come up to me dressed in Spandex trousers, make-up all over 'em, rings in their nipples, and they go yeah, man, you were a big inspiration to me for my heavy metal". I hate it when that happens!"

In 1970, Airforce had a US tour cancelled and he went to Africa instead. Upon arrival in war-torn Nigeria, he looked up Fela Kuti, whom Baker had first met in London in the Sixties. Kuti, who was fusing jazz, rock and juju rhythms to create Afro-beat, was about to tour himself, but his regular drummer was sick. Baker took his place. "I ended up doing a five-week tour of Nigeria with Fela. It was just amazing - me playing drums in Africa. Baker stayed in Nigeria for six

years. "I love Africa. I feel very much at home there. I am a drummer, after all." He is now set to return to the continent. After two years of being hounded by the US immigration authorities for drug busts in the Seventies, he's relocating to South Africa. "The polo is great there. It's a beautiful country. They never really wanted me to live in America anyway. They just let me stay for a while because I'm a good drummer."

But what about the DJQ20? "I definitely want to keep the band together. We're trying to get a European tour. People hear about the Denver Jazz Quartet and they think it's gonna be lousy, but when they hear the music they soon change their tune." All it takes is a touch of Ginger Spice.

*'Coward of the County'* is out now on Atlantic



Ginger Baker: no stranger to jazz

## I'M SURE I SAW THEM ON A POSTER...

THE INDEPENDENT'S REGULAR ROUND-UP OF NEW BANDS

**TO ROCOCO ROT**  
OEH, LONDON

**YOUNGER YOUNGER 28s**  
IMPROV THEATRE, LONDON

**GROUCH**  
KING'S CROSS WATER RATS, LONDON

they couldn't be faulted - it was imagination. What's the point of honing your musical skills if you're going to squander them on recycled ideas?

At the other end of the musical spectrum were the Younger Younger 28s. This Sheffield-based band comprised a Jimi Tenor-style programmer, a rockabilly singer, and two female vocalists who gave new meaning to the term "trailer-park trash". Whirling organs and electro-rhythms gloriously ripped off the Human League's Eighties synth, while the girl's syrupy vocals and barbed lyrics plunged new depths of self-parody. You could see a shiver running down the spine of every man in the place as they yelled "You're crap in bed". The Younger Younger 28s made you want to run riot and re-enact your teenage glory days. Indeed, their panto pop would be perfect for the teen market were it not for the seam of smut. Lines like "I wanna be a teenage boy's wet dream" are not going to get them on *Top of the Pops*.

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## NEW FILMS

### ACTRESSES (15, 88 mins)

Director: Venlura Pons  
Starring: Rossa Maria Sardà, Nuria Espert  
Cult Spanish director Pons rustles up a googly-eyed hit of cinematic navel-gazing in this ode to the acting lark. Shot back in 1997 (before last year's art-house hit *Coresses*), *Actresses* details the earnest research of Merce Pons's aspiring thespian – interviewing three diverse old hands (Rosa Maria Sardà, Nuria Espert, Anna Lizaran) about their life and times in the greasepaint trade. Part acting masterclass, part loquacious reminiscence, *Actresses* slowly stews in an ambience of oppressive theatricality. Its performers talk as if they're being paid by the word.

Repertory: ICA Cinema

### HAPPINESS (18, 134 mins)

Director: Todd Solondz  
Starring: Dylan Baker, Philip Seymour Hoffman  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.  
West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Hoymarket

### AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG, 100 mins)

Director: Oliver Parker  
Starring: Cate Blanchett, Minnie Driver  
Stuffied-shit politico Sir Robert Chiltern (Jeremy Northam) is being held to ransom by Julianne Moore's brittle blackmailer. Wife Cate Blanchett looks on in horror, while louché Rupert Everett and effervescent Minnie Driver provide the comic relief. And so it goes. Oliver Parker's film is a proficient but oddly mechanical overhaul of Oscar Wilde's still-pertinent satire of middle-class hypocrisies – the friction between the public and private sphere. The sharp dialogue is rather blurred by the snappy editing and sumptuous design, but bright playing from a starry cast helps to paper over the cracks.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham

Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road And local cinemas

### PROMETHEUS (15, 130 mins)

Director: Tony Harrison  
Starring: Michael Feast, Walter Sparrow  
Tony Harrison's dense and literate film-poem kicks off with a visit from Hermes (Michael Feast) to a depressed mining town in Yorkshire, before moseying off through the smokestack landscapes of polluted Eastern Europe. Harrison's rigorous, locomotive verse stakes an awkward and overclogged narrative (upgrading Aeschylus's *Prometheus Bound* into life, but it's still too long, too ill-paced, too heavy-handed in its eco-conscious message. Two hours in, and those rhyming couples start to grate a bit.

West End: Notting Hill Coronet

### RETURN TO PARADISE (15, 109 mins)

Director: Joseph Ruben  
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche, Joaquin Phoenix, David Conrad  
Eden takes on a definite whiff of sulphur in the course of Joseph Ruben's fact-based saga, as two strutting graduate travellers (Vince Vaughn and David Conrad) are impelled to return to the scene of their former crimes when an erstwhile buddy (Joaquin Phoenix) is busted for drugs possession in Malaysia. A classic morality play in the "what would you do?" mould, *Return to Paradise* still conspires to bungle its ready-made drama. Opening out as a taut marriage of *Midnight Express* and *The Beach*, its inherent tension seeps away throughout a pedestrian second half. A love angle between Vaughn and Anne Heche's earnest defence lawyer looks tacked on as an afterthought.

West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

## GENERAL RELEASE

### AMERICAN HISTORY X (18, 117 mins)

*American History X* is a liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, which nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

### NO (15, 85 mins)

Robert Lepage's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurd parallel that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to get its scenes unravel; its reach exceeds its grasp.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre

### ARLINGTON ROAD (15, 117 mins)

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoiac thriller stars Jeff Bridges and Tim Robbins.

West End: Warner Village West End And local cinemas

### AN AUTUMN TALE (U, 111 mins)

The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is airy elegiac and as warm as sunshine. West End: Curzon Minima, Renoir

### PAYBACK (18, 110 mins)

Based on the source novel that inspired John Boorman's *Point Blank*, this rumbling revenge thriller sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get even. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

### PLUNKETT AND MACLEAN (15, 100 mins)

Plunkett and Maclean (Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller) are rakish Dick Turpins cutting a dash through 18th-century society. Instead of a decent plot, director Jake Scott offers noise, colour and virtuous pop-promo visuals.

West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Rd. Repertory: The Pullman Everyman

### BLAST FROM THE PAST (12, 111 mins)

Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire starring Brendan Fraser.

West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

### CENTRAL STATION (15, 110 mins)

Central Station trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt through the badlands of Sertão for the boy's missing father.

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Ritzy Cinema

### A CIVIL ACTION (15, 115 mins)

John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga.

West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

### THE FACULTY (15, 104 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

### GODS AND MONSTERS (15, 105 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Metro, Virgin Fulham Road

Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, Watermans Arts Centre

### HIGH ART (18, 102 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Curzon Soho, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema

### LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG, 114 mins)

Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy about fascist Italy and the death-camps.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Hoymarket Repertory: Phoenix Cinema And local cinemas

### MIGHTY JOE (PG, 114 mins)

This children's comedy is disposable Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.

West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea And local cinemas

### THE RED VIOIN (15, 132 mins)

François Girard's dashy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down the centuries. Unfortunately, a thrifit shop budget leaves many of the period backdrops looking like cast-offs from a BBC schools programme.

West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road And local cinemas

### PLUNKETT AND MACLEAN (15, 100 mins)

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West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Rd. Repertory: The Pullman Everyman

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### SLAM (99 mins)

Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force.

West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema And local cinemas

### TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG, 117 mins)

Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini* is a typically loquacious tale of three dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany.

West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Hoymarket Repertory: Phoenix Cinema And local cinemas

### THE THIN RED LINE (15, 170 mins)

Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the director's chair is a fabulous, fever-struck war film.

West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Hoymarket Repertory: Phoenix Cinema And local cinemas

### WALKING NED (PG, 91 mins)

This rattle-bag of a black comedy is just too airbrushed for its own good.

West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea And local cinemas

### MIGHTY JOE (PG, 114 mins)

This children's comedy is disposable Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.

West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea And local cinemas

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### THE FIVE BEST FILMS

#### Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is hypnotised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

#### Happiness (18)

Set in New Jersey, Todd Solondz's second film is a comedy of loneliness and sexual deviancy that reaffirms this young writer-director's talent.

#### High Art (18)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up, Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

#### The Faculty (15)

Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders (right). Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals. Piper Laurie? Why can't all teen films be like this?

#### Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance finds Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

### THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

#### Good (Donmar Warehouse, London)

Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodation with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

#### Gross Indecency (Gielgud Theatre, London)

The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer in all his complex contradictions. Booking to 5 Jun

#### Forbidden Broadway (Jermyn Street Theatre, London)

Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs from Sondheim to *The Lion King* via Elaine Paige. To 10 May

#### Volpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Bo Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism (right).

To 9 Oct

#### A Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)

In Michael Boyd's beguiling staging, Josette Simon's Amazonian Titania is sex-on-very-long-legs and could devour Tina Turner for breakfast. To 9 Oct

PAUL TAYLOR

### THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

#### Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

#### Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the greatest, most intense portraiture ever (right). Men as icons of power, women as exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric. To 25 Apr



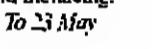
#### Thinking Aloud (Camden Arts Centre)

Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates this curious and cheering exploration of creativity in art, design and life: an assortment of rough drafts, doodles, try-outs and models. To 30 May



#### Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs 1994-98; huge, panoramic, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world – stock-exchange floor, skyscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 10 May



## STRATFORD

NEW PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 0386) BFI Strand *Blast from the Past* 12.30pm, 5.20pm, 10.10pm *The Faculty* 8.30pm, 10.45pm *An Ideal Husband* 2pm, 4.15pm *Private Lives* 8.45pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 6.15pm, 8.30pm, 10.45pm *The Rupratus Movie* 1.15pm, 3.10pm, 5pm, 6.45pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3pm, 7.15pm *Start 1045pm*

## STREATHAM

ABC (0870-902 0451) BR: *Stratford Hall* A Civil Action 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm *Return to Paradise* 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm *The Rupratus Movie* 1.45pm *Shakespeare in Love* 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

ONEON (0705-000070) BR: *Stratford Hall* *A Bug's Life* 12.40pm, 2.40pm *The Faculty* 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 10pm *An Ideal Husband* 12.40pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.45pm *Mighty Joe* 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm *Private Lives* 2.30pm, 4.30pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 7.30pm, 10pm *Walking Ned* 5pm, 7.20pm, 9pm *Shakespeare in Love* 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

## SURREY QUAYS

UCI (0870-088 0005) 9.30am *Quay Cinema* *Quay Cinema* 9.30am *A Bug's Life* 5.10pm *A Civil Action* 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm *The Faculty* 4.30pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 11.45pm *An Ideal Husband* 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.45pm *Mighty Joe* 11.20pm, 4.45pm *Private Lives* 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3pm, 6.45pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 7.30pm, 10pm *Walking Ned* 7.30pm, 9.30pm

## SUTTON

MCA (0870-889 0001) BR: *Sutton A Civil Action* 4.50pm, 11.40pm *The Faculty* 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.35pm, 12.45pm *An Ideal Husband* 4pm, 8.15pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm *Mighty Joe* 1.45pm *Private Lives* 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3pm, 6.45pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 7.30pm, 10pm *Walking Ned* 7.30pm, 9.30pm

## SWISS COTTAGE

WALKER (0171-604 3110) 4pm *French Road* *Street at the Past* 1.40pm *A Bug's Life* 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm *The Faculty* 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.25pm *An Ideal Husband* 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm *Mighty Joe* 11.10am, 1.45pm *Private Lives* 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm *Shakespeare in Love* 4.45pm, 6.25pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 4.10pm, 8.15pm *Walking Ned* 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

## UXBRIDGE

ODEO (0870-050 0007) 4pm *Uxbridge* *A Bug's Life* 1.35pm *The Faculty* 6.45pm, 9.10pm *Mighty Joe* 1pm, 4.20pm *Private Lives* 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 9pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 6.30pm, 8.30pm

## WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-902 0424) BR: *Walthamstow Central* *Private Lives* 5.10pm, 7.45pm *The Faculty* 6.15pm, 8.30pm, 9.45pm *Mighty Joe* 11.15pm, 1.30pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm *Shakespeare in Love* 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm *Walking Ned* 7.30pm, 9.30pm

## WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-350 3351) BR: *Eltham Central* *A Civil Action* 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm *Central Station* 3.30pm *The Faculty* 4pm, 6pm

## WILLESDEN

WILLESDEN (0181-530 0823) *Willesden Central* *Private Lives* 3pm, 5.30pm *The Faculty* 5pm, 7pm

## WIMBLEDON

ODEO (0870-050 0007) BR: *Wimbledon* *A Bug's Life* 2.25pm, 2.30pm *The Faculty* 6.25pm, 6.45pm, 11.15pm *An Ideal Husband* 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm *Mighty Joe* 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm *Shakespeare in Love* 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 4.10pm, 8.15pm *Walking Ned* 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

## WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-454 5043) BR: *Woolwich Arsenal* *A Civil Action* 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm *The Faculty* 6.15pm, 8.45pm

## WYKES

ODEO (0870-050 0007) *Wykes* *A Bug's Life* 1.35pm *The Faculty* 6.45pm, 9.10pm *Mighty Joe* 1pm, 4.20pm *Private Lives* 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm

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## WOODFORD

ODEO (0181-983 3453) *Woodford* *A Civil Action* 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 8.30pm *Walking Ned* 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

## WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-454 5043) BR: *Woolwich Arsenal* *A Civil Action* 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm *The Faculty* 6.15pm, 8.45pm

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## COUNTRYWIDE

ABERYSTWYTH  
COMMODORE (01970-62421) *The Thin Red Line* (15)

BATH  
ROBINS (0541-560561) *Plunkett and Macleese* (15) *The Faculty* (15) *Blast from the Past* (12) *Aziz*, *Ventura*, *Pet Detective* (12) *La Vita è Bella* (15)

BORNEO  
ODON (0705-020007) *Plunkett and Macleese* (15) *The Faculty* (15) *Small Soldiers* (PG) *An Ideal Husband* (PG) *Returns to Paradise* (15) *Mighty Joe* (PG) *Walking Ned* (PG) *Private Lives* (15) *Shakespeare in Love* (15) *Star Cracker* (15) *Private Lives* (15) *Walking Ned* (PG) *Bug's Life* (PG)

BRIGHTON  
VISION (0541-553145) *Shakespeare in Love* (15) *Mighty Joe* (PG) *Walking Ned* (PG) *Private Lives* (15) *Star Cracker* (15) *Walking Ned* (PG) *Bug's Life* (PG)

BRISTOL  
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-351000) *Stratford Hall* *A Civil Action* 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm *Return to Paradise* 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm *An Ideal Husband* 12.40pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.45pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 7.30pm, 9.30pm *Walking Ned* 7.30pm, 9.30pm

CAMBRIDGE  
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-351000) *Stratford Hall* *A Civil Action* 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm *Return to Paradise* 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm *An Ideal Husband* 12.40pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.45pm *Plunkett and Macleese* 7.30pm, 9.30pm *Walking Ned* 7.30pm, 9.30pm

CAMBRIDGE  
WILLIAM VILLAGE (01223-404041) *Payback* (15) *Return to Paradise* (15) *An Ideal Husband* (PG) *Private Lives* (15) *Star Cracker* (15) *Walking Ned* (PG) *Bug's Life* (PG)

CARDIFF  
ODON (0705-020007) *Stratford Hall* *A Civil Action* 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm *Return to Paradise* (15) *An Ideal Husband* (PG) *Private Lives* (15) *Star Cracker* (15) *Walking Ned* (PG) *Bug's Life* (PG)

CAMBRIDGE  
WILLIAM VILLAGE (01223-404041) *Payback* (15) *Return to Paradise* (15) *An Ideal Husband* (PG) *Private Lives* (15) *Star Cracker* (15) *Walking Ned* (PG) *Bug's Life* (PG)

CAMBRIDGE  
WILLIAM VILLAGE (01223-404041) *Payback* (15) *Return to Paradise* (15) *An Ideal Husband* (PG) *Private Lives* (15) *Star Cracker* (15) <i



THE LAND OF LIFE  
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## FRIDAY TELEVISION

THE FRIDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 16 April 1999

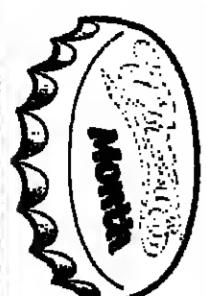
### BBC1

**ROBERT HANKS**

TELEVISION REVIEW



**STAY FOR ONE...  
OR TWO...  
OR THREE...  
OR EIGHT.**



#### DOCU-SOAP OF THE DAY

#### FILM OF THE DAY

#### Bill Gates exclusively on

Saturday 17th April, 7pm

Exclusive 1 hour in-depth interview, only on

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on 29th April, contact our local

station

and 5th May

on 12th May

on 19th May

on 26th May

on 2nd June

on 9th June

on 16th June

on 23rd June

on 30th June

on 7th July

on 14th July

on 21st July

on 28th July

on 4th August

on 11th August

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